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This Volume  
belongs to a Collection of books,  
about the Somerset  
which he loved,  
made by

**FRANCIS UNDERHILL, D.D.**

Bishop of Bath & Wells  
for the Diocese  
in whose service  
he found his chief delight.

**1937-1943**



















Engraved by W. Stodart from a drawing by J. G. Smith.

HALSWAY NEAR CROWCOMBE, SOMERSET.

*Charles Weaver*  
*1879*

SOMERSETSHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
and  
NATURAL HISTORY

SOCIETY'S PROCEEDINGS 1868-9



VOL. XV

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TAUNTON

FREDERICK MAY, HIGH STREET  
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## Preface.

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THE Members of the Society are indebted to Wm. Long, Esq., for the two illustrations of Christon Church, given in the present volume ; and to the Council of the Geological Society for the use of the plate to illustrate Mr. Sanford's Paper, on the Rodentia of the Somerset Caves.

The Publication Committee regret that they have not been able, as they intended, to give the Somersetshire Glossary in this present volume. It will be in print early next year.



# Contents.

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## PART I.—PROCEEDINGS.

	Page
Annual Meeting at Williton, 1868 - - -	1
Report of Council, 1868 - - - - -	1
Excursions—Bicknoller Church, Halsway Manor	
House - - - - -	5
Crowcombe, Stogumber, Monksilver - - -	6
Coombe Sydenham, Nettlecombe, Old Cleeve Abbey	7
Dunster Castle, Dunster Church, Carhampton -	8-9
Strington Cross, Stogursey, Dodington -	- 10-11
 Annual Meeting at Axbridge, 1869 - - -	 13
Report of Council, 1869 - - - - -	13
President's Address - - - - -	16
Mr. Knyfton, on the Muniments of Axbridge -	31
Mr. Serel, on the Manors of Axbridge and Cheddar	31
Mr. Pooley, on an Old Cross, at East Harptree -	33
Mr. Freeman, on Axbridge Church - - -	34
Excursions—Roberrow, Dolbury, Burrington -	36
Winscombe, Loxton, Christon, Banwell - -	38
 Conversazione Meetings, 1869 - - - - -	 40
Local Museum, &c. - - - - -	41
Additions and Donations to the Museum of the	
Society - - - - -	41



list. It will be seen that this will not affect the real condition of the Society. They further recommend that in future any member who shall not have paid his subscription for three years, shall be struck off the list, and be subject to a fresh entrance fee in case he should wish to rejoin the Society.

"It is evident that any comparison between the number of members in past and present years will, if this recommendation be adopted, be fallacious; but the Council have every reason to believe that the Society has lost no material strength during the past year.

"They report that the Volume of Proceedings for the year 1867, is for the most part printed, and they have reason to believe that it will be in the hands of members in the course of a few weeks; and that the contents will be found to be of considerable interest.

"By the courtesy of the Council of the Palæontographical Society, the paper on the Feline remains in our Museum by Mr. Sanford, will be furnished with a limited number of copies of illustrations. These will be issued to such members as require them at the price of 4s. per set of twenty-five folio and quarto plates.

"A considerable amount of wall casing for the Museum has been provided by a local subscription. This has enabled the Curator to improve the arrangement of the collection, though much still remains to be done in this respect.

"Considerable progress has been made in a minute and critical examination of, and mounting and arranging, the valuable cave collection, which proves to be of greater interest the more closely it is examined.

"A considerable portion of the rough catalogue of the whole Museum is finished by the Curator. It is hoped that this may be completed during the ensuing year.

"Mr. Stradling has deposited a miscellaneous collection of objects in the Museum, some of them are of considerable historical and antiquarian interest, including a valuable addition to the geological collection.

"Annexed is the Treasurers' Report for the year ending August 20th, by which it will be seen that there is a balance of £32 1s. 5d. in favour of the Society.

"In conclusion the Council beg to tender their thanks to the President, and the Local Committee at Williton, for their exertions on the present occasion."

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

*The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.*

Dr.		Cr.	
1867.		1867-8.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
August 20.			
To balance of former account	8 16 4	By Annual Meeting at Bristol	5 19 6
„ Subscriptions for 1868 ...	148 10 0	„ Repairs, Glass, &c. ...	6 15 0
„ Ditto arrears ...	138 11 6	„ Stationery, Printing, &c. ...	10 3 8
„ Entrance Fees ...	12 10 0	„ Coal, Gas, &c. ...	8 2 8
		„ Curator's Salary to Aug. '68	37 10 0
		„ Rent to Midsummer, 1868	30 0 0
		„ Insurance ...	15 0
		„ May, balance of Account	
		for Printing Vol. 13 ...	68 17 6
		„ May, on account of Print-	
		ing Vol. 14 ...	25 0 0
		„ Lithographic drawing and	
		printing illustrations	
		for Vol. 13 ...	46 9 11
		„ Subscription to Palæon-	
		tographical Society 1868	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Ray	
		Society, 1868 ...	1 1 0
		„ Subscriptions to Archæo-	
		logical Institute, 11	
		years—to 1867 ...	11 11 0
		„ Original drawing of Taun-	
		ton Castle Gateway ...	4 4 0
		„ Postages, Carriage, &c. ...	7 18 8
		„ Postage of Volumes of	
		Proceedings ...	9 6 7
		„ Sundries ...	1 10 11
		Balance ...	32 1 5
	<u>£ 308 7 10</u>		<u>£ 308 7 10</u>
August 20, 1868, Balance ...	£ 32 1 5		

H. R. H. J. & D. BADCOCK,

*Treasurers.*

August 21st, 1868, Audited and found Correct,

Wm. P. PINCHARD,

The Report of the Council and the Treasurers' Account were unanimously received and adopted.

Proposed by the PRESIDENT, and seconded by MR. MARSHALL, and resolved, "That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next meeting of the Society and for the appointment of President."

The Vice-Presidents were re-elected.

The Treasurers were re-appointed.

The General Secretaries were appointed as follows :—  
Rev. W. A. Jones, Dr. Pring, Mr. W. A. Sanford.

The Local Secretaries were re-appointed.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee : H. J. Alford, J. E. Anderdon, W. Meade King, T. Meyler, J. F. Norman, W. P. Pinchard.

Moved by DR. WOODFORDE, and seconded by MR. DICKINSON, and resolved "That the best thanks of the members be presented to Wm. Ayshford Sanford, Esq., F.G.S., for the valuable services rendered by him in the arrangement and classification of the Mendip Cave Bones, in the Museum of the Society, and for the elaborate catalogue of *Felis spelæa* recently completed."

MR. E. A. FREEMAN then made some remarks upon Dunster Church. The fabric had originally been divided between the monks and the people ; he only knew of one other where the arrangements remained so perfect, and that was at Ewenny, in Glamorganshire.

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## The Excursion.

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### Bicknoller Church

was first visited, and attention drawn to the elaborately carved bench ends, some of the finest remaining in this part of the county. The church consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, tower, and south porch with parvis. In the church-yard is the shaft of an old cross. The manor of this parish was given to the Dean and Chapter of Wells, by Bishop Bytton, in 1271. The name Bicknoller is supposed to be derived from the ancient British words *Bychan*, small, and *Alwar*, a treasury. It has been said that the Romans had here one of the smaller repositories for their money.

The party then proceeded to

### Balsway Manor House,

supposed to have been originally the residence of Cardinal Beaufort, there are however no heraldic insignia on any part of the building which would bear testimony to this tradition. Internally the house has been much altered, still the remains of the old ceilings bespeak its former grandeur. The three towers, one in the centre, and the others at the ends of the front, give it a picturesque appearance, being battlemented and pinnaced. There are several quaint gurgoyles, one representing the devil carrying away a lawyer.

Hence to

### Crowcombe Church,

a fine Perpendicular building, dedicated to the Holy Cross, having a chapel on the north side containing several monuments to the Carew family, and a small portion of stained glass. In the church-yard is a fine cross having a canopied niche, the centre of the shaft containing the figure of a bishop vested in a chasuble. Another cross stands in the village; both these are in an excellent state of preservation. The visit proposed to Crowcombe Court was unavoidably deferred owing to the illness of the proprietor, Lieut. Colonel Carew.

### The Church of St. Mary, Stogumber

was next inspected. Bishop Bytton gave this church to the Dean and Chapter of Wells on condition that a yearly stipend of fifty shillings should be paid to a chaplain to say daily mass for the repose of his soul. Here is a fine monument to Sir George Sydenham, Knight, of Combe Sydenham, and others to the family of Musgrave.

The party then returned to Williton where an Ordinary was held at the Egremont Hotel, after which the Rev. T. HUGO, M.A., read a paper on "Taunton and King Ina;" and Mr. J. H. PARKER made some observations on the Cistercian Abbey at Old Cleeve.

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## Second Day: Excursion.

The members of the Society started from Williton and went direct to

### Monksilver Church,

which is supposed to have been built in the 15th cen-

tury, and contains some early Perpendicular work of the reign of Henry VII, and a good number of carved bench ends, some of which have been judiciously restored.

The ancient Manor House of

### Combe Sydenham,

once the residence of Sir F. Drake, was then inspected. It was held of the Dean and Chapter of Wells by the tenure of knight's service, and is a fine example of an Elizabethan mansion, having a gabled tower in the centre. The porch bears date 1580, and has this inscription :—

“Porta patebo tuis semper generose Georgii ingratis animis janua clausa patens.”

Above are the arms of Sydenham, Quarterly 1st & 6th Three rams, for Sydenham—2. defaced—3. A cross—4. Barry of six—5. A bend between six escallops (? fountains) for Sturton. There were two crests placed on helmets affronté, both now defaced.

### Nettlecombe Court and Church

were next visited. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, contains some fine monuments to the Raleighs, and some 15th century glass with figures of SS. Mary, Catherine, Urith, John, Laurance, and Peter. Round the font are sculptural representations illustrative of the seven sacraments. A fine old chalice, portion of the Communion plate, was shown, and, after the great hall of the court with its numerous portraits of the Trevelyan family had been viewed, the Society proceeded *viâ* Fair Cross to

### Old Cleeve Abbey,

where they were joined by several members of the Exeter Naturalists' Society. The ruins were examined under the

guidance of Mr. J. H. Parker, who made some observations on the history and architectural features of the building. It has not been considered necessary to give a report of them here as our readers will find that the history and antiquities of the Abbey are already fully detailed in the Proceedings of the Society, Vols. VI and VII.

Hence to

### Dunster Castle

where an excellent luncheon was provided in a marquee on the lawn, by the liberality of its noble owner, G. Fownes-Luttrell, Esq. After inspecting the castle, which was built in the year 1580, though the gate-way appears to be about the time of Richard II, and the inner gate-way and bastions of that of Edward III, the Rev. T. Brown read as follows :—

It was in the spring of 1646 that the Parliamentary army was besieging Dunster castle, which was then garrisoned for the King under the command of Col. Wyndham, the Parliamentary General sent the following message to him :—"If you will yet deliver up the castle you shall have fair quarter, if not, expect no mercy. Your mother shall be in front to receive the first firing of your cannon." To which the gallant Colonel replied—"If you do what you threaten, you do the most barbarous and villanous act that ever was done! My mother I honor, but the cause I fight for, and the masters I serve—God and the King—I honour more."—"Mother, do you forgive me, and give me your blessing? and let the rebels answer for spilling that blood of yours which I will save with the loss of mine, if I have enough both for my masters and yourself." The mother replied, "Son, I forgive thee, and pray God to help thee for this brave resolution. If I live, I shall

love thee all the better for it. God's will be done." Lord Wentworth, Sir R. Greswell, and Col. Webbe rescued the mother, relieved the castle, and took 1,000 prisoners, and put the enemy to flight."

### Dunster Church

was the next object, and Mr. E. A. Freeman made some observations respecting it, which it is unnecessary to repeat here, as he has contributed a very valuable account of the building and other contiguous remains to the sixth volume of our Proceedings.

#### Viewing

### Carhampton Church

on their way, which contains a fine old roodscreen, and to which a handsome tower has been recently added, the members returned to Williton where an ordinary was provided at the Egremont Hotel, after dinner Mr. EMANUEL GREEN read a paper on the "Civil War in Somersetshire," and the Rev. T. BROWN drew attention to Mr. Coryat, son of one of the rectors of Odcombe, near Yeovil. In 1612 he made a journey to Turkey, Aleppo, and the West Indies, which took him three months and cost him only £3.

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## Third Day : Excursion.

The members left Williton a little before ten o'clock for

### East Quantoxhead Church

which contains some good bench ends of geometric patterns, and a fine canopied altar tomb bearing this inscription :—



“ Here luyt hugh luttrell knyght wyhe departed 1522 the fyrst day of february, here lyt andro luttrell knyght his sone wyhe departyd the yere of our lord god mccccxxviii the iiii day of may on whoys souly’ ihu have mey.”

Above are the arms with supports, and the curious canting crest of Luttrell, an otter (*loutre*) passant holding a fish in its mouth. The ancient manor house close to the church was then carefully examined. It is a building of the Elizabethan period, and is exceedingly curious having suffered scarcely any alteration since it was built. The principal rooms have fine chimney pieces with sculptures of scriptural subjects. The old staircases, the steps of which are solid blocks of oak, the old glazing of the windows, the leaden roof, the dais of the great hall, and even some of the hooks used to support the tapestry in the upper rooms, all remaining together much in their original condition, seem to carry the visitor back to the days of his long forgotten ancestors, and place their every day life vividly before his mind.

### Stringston Cross

was next seen. It is one of the few perfect churchyard crosses still remaining in this neighbourhood. The finial of the shaft which is really the cross has on its eastern side the figure of our Lord on the cross, with kneeling figures of Mary and John; on the western the Virgin crowned and Child; on the southern the figure of a Bishop, episcopally vested, bearing a crozier, and having his hand in the attitude of benediction; on the northern the figure of a saint, probably St. James the patron of the church. These are protected by canopied niches. Hence to

### Stogursey Church,

which contains much Norman work; the font is decora-

ted with the cross of St. Andrew, to whom the church is dedicated, and has a heavy cable moulding. The nave was re-built in the 15th century. The tower is central, contains a fine peal of bells, and has a spire covered with lead. The whole has been recently repaired.

The Society then returned to Fairfield, the seat of Sir Peregrine Palmer Fuller Palmer-Acland, Bart., where the venerable owner had provided an excellent luncheon for them in the great hall, around which hang the portraits of many of his ancestors. After luncheon Sir A. Acland-Hood, Bart., mentioned the persons they represented. The healths of Sir P. P. F. P. Acland, and Sir A. A. Hood, Barts., were proposed with thanks for the hospitable entertainment provided, and having been duly honoured the party started for Dodington.

It had been proposed to visit the ancient camp on Douseborough and site of the old mines at Dodington. This was however omitted owing to the lateness of the hour at which the party arrived there.

### Dodington Church

is small and possesses little to interest the antiquary. The parish register which commences in 1538 has this curious entry :—"Feby 25th 1770 was buried James Protherow (a welchman) as he was travelling from Carnarvon too Westminster in London his parish being eaten up by lice through the Inhumanity of the Parish Officer through which he came. all possible kindness being shown him in this parish, but he lived in it but a few days and died a most Miserable Spectacle as was ever seen aged 67."

The Manor House stands hard by the church, and was erected in the year 1581. It has been recently repaired by Sir P. F. P. Acland, Bart., the present proprietor. The

old hall retains its minstrels' gallery, and in the windows may be observed the arms of Dodington. Sable three hunting horns Argent, impaling Sable a bend Or between six fountains, for Stourton. Over the chimney piece are the arms of Dodington, quartering Wynham, Trivet, and Sydenham.

Hence passing through St. Andrew's park the Society inspected the church of

### West Quantoxhead.

a modern erection in the gothic style. and returned to Williton, which brought the annual meeting to a close.



## The Twenty-first Annual Meeting.

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THE Twenty-first Annual Meeting was held at AXBRIDGE, on the 7th September, 1869, under the presidency of WM. LONG, Esq. The Rev. WM. ARTHUR JONES, Secretary, read the following Report :—

### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, 1869.

“ The Council, in presenting their Annual Report, have the pleasure to congratulate the members of this Society on its having attained its Twenty-first Anniversary. While much has been already done through the operation of this Society, to illustrate the history of the County by the series of volumes they have published, and by the objects of Antiquarian interest, and of Natural History collected in your Museum, they feel that very much more remains to be done; and your council would again earnestly solicit a more active co-operation on the part of all those who have it in their power to promote its objects. They are especially desirous to afford every facility for the publication in the Proceedings of original unpublished Documents relating to the County, such as may be found in the Archives of ancient Boroughs, like that in which we are now assembled, and likewise in

private collections, of which there are many in the County of Somerset of great local and public interest.

“Considerable progress has been made in the Glossary of the Somersetshire Dialect kindly undertaken for the Society by the Rev. Wadham P. Williams, assisted by one of your Secretaries, and it is hoped, that members residing in various Districts will assist in furthering this object, before the fleeting forms of the language of our forefathers pass away and become entirely lost.

“Under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Ayshford Sanford, aided by the curator, Mr. Bidgood, the valuable collection of Mendip Cave Bones in your Museum is now arranged and classified, so as to be available for students of that branch of scientific research, and for all such as are interested in the early history of the district. The Museum has been visited during the past year by several of the most distinguished men of Science, all of whom have expressed their high appreciation of the extreme value of the collection, and of the skill and care with which the classification has been carried out.

“In the early part of last Spring, your Council were pleased to have an opportunity of allowing to be placed in the Museum an apparatus for hatching Salmon-ova with the view of introducing them into the River Tone. By this means a thousand young Salmon have been set free in Somersetshire waters, and it is believed under very favourable circumstances.

“The Council desire to record with deep sorrow the recent loss by death of the Rev. F. Warre, one of the founders of this Society, and for many years one of its most active and most highly-valued officers. They feel assured that all the members would desire to join in paying a grateful tribute of respect and esteem, to the memory

of one who has contributed so largely to the prosperity of this Society, by his extensive and varied Archæological knowledge as well as by his genial and kindly disposition.

"In conclusion, your Council venture to hope that the Society will continue to secure the sympathy and increased support of all who are interested in the County, and be thereby enabled to give evidence of increased power and usefulness."

On the motion of Mr. R. NEVILLE GRENVILLE, M.P., seconded by Mr. F. H. DICKINSON, the Report was received and adopted.

The following Financial Statement was presented by Mr. R. G. BADCOCK, Treasurer, and adopted :—

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and

Dr.	Natural History Society.	Cr.	
1868.		1868-9.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
August 20			
To Balance of former account	32 1 5	By Expenses at Annual Meeting	5 13 2
„ Subscriptions ... ..	162 10 0	„ Cases, fixtures, repairs, &c.	10 0 0
„ Entrance fees ... ..	11 10 0	„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	7 8 8
„ Excursion tickets ... ..	5 5 0	„ Coal, Gas, &c. ....	8 15 9
		„ Curator's Salary to August	
		3, 1869 ... ..	37 10 0
		„ Rent. One year to Mid-	
		summer, 1869 ... ..	30 0 0
		„ Insurance ... ..	15 0
		„ Balance of account for	
		printing Vol. 14, illus-	
		trations, &c. ....	59 1 0
		„ Subscription to Palæon-	
		tographical Society 1869	1 1 0
		„ Subscription to Ray	
		Society, 1869 ... ..	1 1 0
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c. ....	6 4 3
		„ Postage and delivery of	
		Volumes ... ..	6 9 1
		„ Sundries ... ..	1 9 11
		Balance ... ..	35 17 7
	<u>£ 211 8 5</u>		<u>£ 211 6 5</u>
Sept. 1st, 1869, Balance ...	£ 35 17 7		

H. B. H. J. & D. BADCOCK,

Treasurers.

September 4th, 1869, Audited and found Correct,

Wm. KELLY.

It was moved by Mr. R. G. BADCOCK, seconded by Mr. R. K. MEADE KING, and carried unanimously, "That a copy of the paragraph relating to the late Rev. F. Warre, be sent to Mrs. Warre."

On the motion of the Rev. WM. HUNT, seconded by Mr. W. B. DAWKINS, the Vice-Presidents were re-elected.

Moved by the Rev. PREBENDARY HORNER, seconded by the Rev. PREBENDARY SCARTH, it was resolved :—  
"That the Treasurers and General Secretaries be re-elected with thanks for their services.

The Local Secretaries were re-appointed with the addition of the Rev. Wm. Hunt, Congresbury, and Mr. G. W. Marshall, of Bicknoller.

On the motion of Mr. PLEYDELL P. BOUVERIE, seconded by Mr. T. T. KNYFTON, the following gentlemen were elected members of the Committee:—Rev. W. P. Williams, Mr. O. W. Malet, Mr. H. Alford, Capt. Doveton, Mr. Cecil Smith, Mr. E. B. Tylor.

Mr. Wm. Bidgood was re-elected as Curator, and the value of his services in connection with the arrangement and classification of the Cave Remains in the Museum duly acknowledged.

Moved by Mr. F. H. DICKINSON, seconded by Mr. R. N. GRENVILLE, and resolved:—"That the Council of the Society be empowered to fix the time and place for the next Annual Meeting, and to make the necessary arrangements."

On the motion of Mr. JOHN BATTEN, it was resolved:—"That the Council be authorized, if they think fit, to arrange that the Meeting be held out of the boundaries of the County of Somerset."

The PRESIDENT then read the following address :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As Archæology abhors all looseness

of statement, and exacts from its students the most rigid attainable exactness of thought and expression, I have committed to paper the few remarks respecting the antiquities of this neighbourhood, which I thought might with propriety be made by one filling the honourable office of President of this Society at an Axbridge meeting.

The previous annual meetings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, have been held at the following places:—Taunton (2), Wells (2), Weston-super-Mare, Bath, Yeovil, Dunster, Bridgewater (2), Bruton, Glastonbury, Clevedon, Langport, Wellington, Burnham, Shepton Mallet, Ilminster, Bristol, Williton. When the Society met at Weston-super-Mare in 1851, the excursionists from that place visited Banwell Church, and the Banwell Caves, (which were lighted up for the occasion by Chancellor Law); and the Corporation of Axbridge kindly exhibited their interesting collection of charters in the temporary museum. From Clevedon in 1860 an excursion was made to Wrington, Congresbury, and Yatton, which although not included in the programme of the present meeting, may fairly be considered to belong to our Axbridge district. The Cheddar Cliffs, and Cheddar Church, were visited from Glastonbury in 1859, but with these exceptions the Society has not crossed the limits of the area which we may claim as our own.

But although the Society, in its collective character, has not hitherto explored this particular portion of the county, much attention has been bestowed upon it by individual members, and with good reason. For if we consider the Mendip Hills with reference to their picturesque features, it would be hard to find any of our highland tracts with outlines of a more varied and pleasing character; and if we regard them, from an antiquarian point of view, there is no portion of South Britain, (with the exception perhaps of the Devonshire coast and the neighbouring county of Wilts), which, in its prehistoric traces of man and his works, can surpass it in interest and importance. The geologist finds ample materials



for the study of his favourite science on this vast limestone range, and in its riven sides; and the ecclesiologist sees with admiration in our valleys, such a tower as that of Wrington, which has been pronounced by an eminent authority to be entitled to the designation of "the finest square western tower, not designed for a spire or lantern, in all England, and therefore probably in the whole world."

The results of the investigations of this neighbourhood by members of the Society have been embodied in papers, published from time to time in the Society's Journal, and among the most important of them are the following:—On the Mendip Bone Caverns, by the Rev. W. A. Jones; on Wookey Hole Hyæna Den, and on the Burrington Combe Caverns, by Mr. Boyd Dawkins; on the Mining Operations of the Romans, by Mr. Yates; on Ancient Chambered Tumuli, by the Rev. H. M. Searth; on the Geology of the Mendip District, by the late Mr. W. Baker, and by Messrs. Charles Moore and McMurtrie; on the Feline Fossils and Pleistocene Mammalia in the Taunton Museum, by Mr. Sanford; and on the types of Ancient Earth Works, by the late Rev. Francis Warre.

The mention of this last name reminds us of one who has recently passed away, but whose labours to promote the success of this Society, and the intelligent study of the antiquities of the county, will not soon be forgotten.

In this our Axbridge district, we have indications of those different periods of man's existence and civilization, which have been, of late, more or less accurately defined by the investigators of the traces of pre-historic times. Caves have been discovered during the present century on the sides of the Mendip Hills, at Banwell, Uphill, Hutton, Bleadon, and Sandford, which have yielded up the bones of the mammoth, the rhinoceros, the hyæna, the bear, and the reindeer. The important collections of these bones, which were made by the Rev. Mr. Williams, of Bleadon, and by Mr. Beard, of Banwell, have fortunately been secured by the Society, and

are now deposited in the most suitable place for them, the Museum at Taunton. When compared with those of the same species which are to be seen at the present day, these bones appear to have belonged to animals of gigantic dimensions; and there is good reason for the belief that these huge creatures lived and died upon the neighbouring hills, during that much colder period, which at one time prevailed in these islands, and of which we have such abundant evidence in the striated rocks of our more mountainous districts.

It does not appear from the accounts which have come down to us of the discovery of these animal remains, that any remains of man were found in juxtaposition with them; but it seems to be clearly established, from the recent discoveries, in English and foreign bone caverns, of flint implements and other traces of man indiscriminately mixed with bones of the mammoth, bear, hyæna, rhinoceros, Irish elk, &c., that, in the words of Sir John Lubbock, "man was coeval in Europe with the great group of quaternary mammalia."

The examination of the Hyæna Den, at Wookey Hole, near Wells, by Mr. Boyd Dawkins (described in his interesting paper in the Journal for 1861), and which resulted in the discovery of several rude flint implements, interspersed with bones of the extinct fauna of Somersetshire, led him also to the conclusion that man was here a contemporary with the mammoth and rhinoceros.

We cannot, I think, err much if we suppose the condition of the human beings of this very early period to have differed but little from that of the Esquimaux tribes in the present day.

This age, however, whatever may have been its duration, in course of time passed away; the mammoth and hyæna disappeared from this part of Europe; and the traces of man are next found in connection with the bones of the wolf, fox, badger, wild boar, goat, roebuck, *bos longifrons*, and horse. A cave at the head of the Cheddar pass, explored by Mr. Boyd Dawkins in 1859, produced the bones of all these animals, together with a human skull. In one of the upper

caves in Burrington Combe Mr. Boyd Dawkins found, with bones of the above named animals, the fragments of a rude urn and much charcoal, proving that the cave was inhabited by man for some considerable time. The lowest cave in this Combe was discovered at the end of the last century; and within it were found nearly fifty skeletons, arranged in order, and near them, a considerable quantity of flint knives and bones of sheep and deer. It is much to be regretted that the skulls and flints from this cavern have been dispersed, and are no longer available for examination.

In 1863 Mr. James Parker found human bones, along with rude pottery and charcoal, and the bones of the wolf, fox, badger, *bos longifrons*, pig, red deer, dog, and water rat, in a cave in the lime house cliffs at Uphill.

There are, doubtless, other caves in the Mendip range which will, ere long, be brought to light; and we may hope, that a careful examination of their contents will furnish us with additional materials for estimating the condition of man, in the two periods which we have just been considering.

We now come to traces of pre-historic man in these parts of a different character, possibly coeval with, but probably posterior to, the second cave-dwelling period. On the northern side of the Mendip range, near Butcombe, but in the village of Nempnett, there was, a few years ago, a remarkable specimen of the long barrow, very similar to those, which are somewhat numerous found in the region of the Dobuni, who in the adjoining county of Gloucester, seem to have held with much pertinacity, their position as an aboriginal race. It was 150 feet from north to south, 75 from east to west, and 40 feet high at its highest elevation. It was opened by a farmer in 1788, who was in search of stones, and was found to contain a series of stone chambers of a somewhat similar character to those in the other Somersetshire long barrow at Wellow. Like that, it appears to have been constructed with unhewn stone, and to have contained many human skulls and bones, but no trace of metal, and nothing of an ornamental

character. The animal bones found in it, were those of the *bos longifrons*, the red deer, and the horse. Here again, we have cause for regret, that none of these skulls were preserved, as the examination of those from the long barrows in the adjoining counties of Wilts and Gloucester, and in Yorkshire, has shown that they possess a marked character, and one which Dr. Thurnam and Canon Greenwell consider to be typical of a distinct race. "The long barrows," says the latter, "have hitherto universally produced the dolicocephalic (or long) skull, which taken in connection with the shape and method of the mound, the absence of metal and perhaps of pottery, and the manner of the burial, affords strong grounds for believing, that, in them, we have the place of sepulture of a different and an earlier race than the bronze-using people, to whom the round barrows belong." (*Archæological Journal*, Vol. xxii, p. 108.) This remarkable difference between the length of the skulls found in the long barrows, and that of those found in the round barrows, has led Dr. Thurnam to the conclusion that the long-headed race, were either derived from the ancient Iberians, who had this peculiar form of head, or from a common source with that people. "These long-heads," says he, "are the earliest people, whose sepulchral monuments can be shown to remain to us. The exploration of their tombs—the long barrows—shows that they buried their dead entire, and almost without cremation; that they possessed herds of small short-horned oxen—the *bos longifrons* or *bos brachyceros*; that they subsisted largely by the chase of the red deer and wild boar; that some of their customs were barbarous in the extreme; and, in particular, that, if not addicted to anthropophagism they at least sacrificed many human victims, whose cleft skulls, and half-charred bones, are found in their tombs." (Paper on the Ancient Barrows of Wiltshire and the adjoining Counties, read at the opening of the Blackmore Museum, Sept., 1867). The number of instances, in which, during his examination of long barrows, Dr. Thurnam found, with one skull unmutilated,

many others which showed marks of cleavage by some blunt weapon, and with evidence from examination of the fractures, that the violence had been inflicted before burial, and probably during life, forced him to the conclusion, that human sacrifices had formed a portion of the ceremony of interment when a chieftain was buried. In his history of the Gallic war (vi. 19), Cæsar mentions, as does Pomponius Mela, also (iii. 2), that the Gauls were in the habit of sacrificing human victims at their funerals.

The charge which has recently been brought against our British ancestors of indulging in the savage practice of cannibalism, will, I fear, as times go on, be less and less capable of disproof. The chief accuser at present (and he is not without support from Dr. Thurnam and Mr. Stevens of Salisbury) is Canon Greenwell, who, in his examination of Yorkshire barrows, has found such remarkable indications in the broken skulls and disjointed bones, as to lead him to the conclusion, that "in these we have the results of feasts at the interment, where slaves, captives, and others were slain and eaten." He supports his conclusion by reference to Diodorus Siculus, who expressly states that, even in his day, "it was reported that some of the more savage of the Gauls living in the north, near Scythia, ate human flesh, as also the Britons who inhabit Ireland, (Diod. Sic. v. c. 32); and to Strabo, who (iv. c. 5, s. 4) in the first century of our era, repeats the statements (as to the authority for which he did not vouch), that the inhabitants of Ireland, who were more savage and barbarous than those of Britain, fed on human flesh, and deemed it commendable to devour their deceased fathers." From the discovery in some of these long barrows of polished flint implements, Dr. Thurnam is of opinion that they belong to the later stone period.

Before we return to the tops of the hills to notice the traces of their occupation by the bronze-using Belgæ who over-ran and occupied this part of Britain, about 400 years before the Christian era, I should be glad to say a few words respecting

the Megalithic Remains at Stanton Drew, and the Camp on Worle Hill, both of which, may, I think, be not unreasonably assigned to the pre-Belgic period. For more than a thousand years B.C. an active trade in metals seems to have been carried on with Britain, first by the Phœnicians of Tyre, and afterwards by the Carthaginians, and the other Phœnician colonists who were settled on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and on the western coasts of Spain and Gaul. Copper they had in abundance in the islands of Elba\* and Cyprus, but for tin they were compelled to go beyond the pillars of Hercules. As Pliny says expressly that India possessed neither bronze, tin, nor lead, but exchanged her precious stones and pearls,† for these metals, we may assume that the tin of Banca was not then known, and that as Spain did not produce much, the chief supply of this metal came from our Cornish coast. Tarshish (supposed to be Tartessus in the south of Spain) is spoken of nearly 600 years B.C. by the Prophet Ezekiel (c. xxvii, v. 12) as being the channel through which Tyre was supplied with silver, iron, tin, and lead. Considering that the Phœnician sailors were the boldest and most experienced of the mariners of old, and that they did not shrink from encountering the perils of the Land's End, is there any improbability in the supposition that as they went to Cornwall for their tin, so they would visit our Bristol Channel for their supply of lead? ‡ and

\* See Jervis' Mineral Resources of Central Italy pp. 60, 62. At page 63, he gives an interesting account of the old workings for copper by the Etruscans at Temperino, in the Tuscan Maremma. In some parts of this mine Mr. Jervis found a large quantity of "black jack," in others very perfect crystal of dark blende.

† *India neque aes neque plumbum habet, gemmisque suis ac margaritis hoc permutat* (xxxiv. 49). The word 'plumbum' seems to be used here generically, and to apply both to 'plumbum album,' (tin), and to 'plumbum nigrum,' (lead).

‡ Etruscan leaden antiquities are still in existence. Antonio Filippo Giachi, a chronicler of the last century, mentions among the antiquities of the museum of Volterra certain sheets of lead with Etruscan inscriptions, of which Gori (*Istoria litteraria dell' Italia*, 1784) has given an account. He ranked them, after the Eugubian tables, among the most remarkable antiquities of the kind.—(Jervis' Mineral Resources of Central Italy p. 70.)

if this be conceded as probable, would it not be a very natural proceeding that with a view to the better working of the mines of this district, and to the greater security of their collected ore, they should establish a settlement on the neighbouring shore, and that Worle Hill should be selected as a fitting site for such a settlement? There is something so peculiar in the construction of the defences of that Camp, and so unlike what we usually see in camps of the pre-Roman period in this part of England, that it is not difficult to believe it to have been the work of foreign hands.

With respect to the stone circles and avenues at Stanton Drew, I would merely submit to your consideration, whether we may not reasonably assign their origin to Phœnician influence reaching these shores through that energetic maritime people, the Veneti, who inhabited a portion of the coasts of Armorican Gaul; who were still carrying on a brisk trade with Britain in the time of Cæsar; and in whose district were the remarkable stone structures of Karnac and its neighbourhood.

The traces of the Belgic occupation of this district are to be seen in the camps, barrows, circles, hut circles, trackways, and cattle enclosures which abound on the Mendip and neighbouring hills. Their extreme western boundary, the Wansdyke, may be very distinctly seen in many places between the Bathampton Camp above Bath, and Maesknoll above Keynsham; but from this point, in its supposed course either to Portishead, or to the Clifton Down Camps, Mr. Scarth and I have sought for it in vain.

It is probable that, although the use of bronze, both in the east and on the continent of Europe had prevailed for a considerable previous period, the Belgic race was the first which introduced the bronze age into Britain. Even in the time of Cæsar, bronze was an imported article ("Cere utuntur importato," B. G., v. 12); and it is not likely that the Phœnicians, if they found it to their advantage to have settlements on these coasts, would allow the native population to possess any weapons of a more formidable character than their sling stones and arrow heads of flint.

Of this Belgic race, which drove westward, and reduced to slavery the previous and long-headed occupants of this district, Dr. Thurnam, the great authority on the craniology of our early British races, says, "The brachycephalous people or round-heads, who buried in the round barrows were more civilised than the dolicocephali or long-headed race; and may be inferred to have brought with them the more common use, if not knowledge, of bronze. The exploration of their tombs, shows that burning the dead was with them the prevailing and fashionable, though not the exclusive, mode of burial; and the appearances are consistent, with what we are told of the funerals of the Gauls (their supposed congeners) by Cæsar and Pomponius Mela. From the same source, or the appearances in their tombs, we should infer, that they had advanced from the nomadic, hunting, and pastoral condition, to a more settled agricultural stage of culture; and that if they had not altogether abandoned the more barbarous customs of their ancestors, and in particular that of human sacrifice, (which all history tells us, was at one time, everywhere prevalent) they had at least restricted them within narrow limits." "These British brachy-cephali of the bronze period," Dr. Thurnam adds, "are to be regarded as an off-shoot through the Belgic Gauls, from the great brachycephalous stock of central and north eastern Europe and Asia, in all the countries of which—France, Switzerland, South Germany, Bohemia, Poland, Russia, and Finland—the broad and short cranial type is still the prevailing one." (Paper on the ancient British Barrows of Wiltshire and the adjoining counties, read at the opening of the Blackmore Museum, Sept. 1867.)

This race of Belgæ carried on, doubtless, in this district a considerable traffic in the Mendip lead ore, and their trackway to the channel probably passed over Banwell Hill, on which are the remains of a British Camp; and over Bleadon Hill, on which are the remains of a British Settlement. Dolebury Camp would serve as an emporium for their metal, before it was conveyed to the coast. High enough to command a view of



the entire bay from Uphill to Worlehill, large enough to contain many hundred defenders, and strong enough with its double ditch and rampart to defy attack, this hill fortress was admirably adapted for a store house of the mineral products of the neighbourhood, until an opportunity offered of shipping them off to foreign parts. Into its eastern entrance would be brought the lead produce of Charterhouse and Shipham, and from its western it would be carried across the valley to the opposite hill, and from thence along the high land to the harbour under Brean Down.\*

The Barrows upon the Mendip range, and which may be seen in clusters near Maesbury Castle; at Priddy, near the Castle of Comfort Inn; and on Blackdown, are not nearly so numerous or of such varied form, as those which are to be found on the Wiltshire downs around Abury and Stonehenge. They are the burial places of the more distinguished occupants of these hill tops during this Belgic period. The greater number of them were opened about 50 years ago by the Rev. John Skinner, Rector of Camerton, near Bath. His manuscript account of their examination is in the library of the Bath Literary Institution; but it has been printed *in extenso* by the Rev. Mr. Scarth in the 16th volume of proceedings of the Archæological Institute. The interments were all indicative of the Belgic or bronze period, cremation having been practiced in every case; and the few articles discovered with the burnt ashes consisting of bronze spear heads, some amber beads, and some coarse clay cups.

There appears to have been a considerable Belgic mining settlement at Charterhouse, which from the articles discovered in it, must have been subsequently occupied by the British, who here worked the mines for their Roman masters. I will take this opportunity of commending to the attention of

\* It was probably the tradition of this camp having been at some former time a place of deposit for mineral treasure, which occasioned the dog-grel lines recorded by Leland,

“If Dolbyri digged were,  
Of gold should be the share.”

Somersetshire Archæologists a remarkable and extensive collection of hut circles, which seems to have been hitherto unnoticed by them. It is on the slope of the northern barrier of Cleve Combe. Some of these circles are in the wood on the crest of the Combe, but the greater number are in the open space adjoining. One cannot traverse this ground without wishing to examine some of these circles with pick and shovel.

I will now briefly notice the traces left of the Roman occupation of this portion of Somerset. The desire of possessing and retaining the mineral districts of Britain was, doubtless, the chief incentive to the Roman invasion, and to their prolonged occupation of this island. Although they worked and smelted the lead ore, which is to be found in many parts of England, that which they possessed on the Mendip Hills would, from its proximity to the adjacent channel, be of especial value to them for exportation. The visitor to Rome observes, among the results of the Ostian excavations now in the Lateran Museum, large pieces of leaden pipe which had been used in early imperial times for the conveyance of water. Lead was also used by the Romans for securing the iron bondings with which the large blocks of travertine in the Coliseum and other buildings were fastened together. Pliny (*Hist. Nat.* xxxiv, c. 17) informs us, that whereas lead was extracted from the ground with considerable labour in Spain, and throughout Gaul, it occurs in abundance near the surface in Britain; and we may with reason assume that much of the lead imported into Italy came from this part of Britain. Two Roman pigs of lead have been at different times found on the Mendip Hills; one, stamped with the name of Claudius, was found near Wookey Hole in the time of Henry VIII, the other impressed with the name of Britannicus, son of Claudius and Messalina, was found near Blagdon in 1853. Whether the Romans were successful in extracting the silver from the lead ore we know not, but that they were unable to eliminate the whole of the lead is sufficiently apparent to us of the present day, as their refuse lead heaps or slag are now being worked over again

on these very hills. When the Romans had become absolute masters of this district, they had no need of the British hill-forts for the protection of themselves and their mineral treasures; and they accordingly carried their lead away direct, either to their station at the mouth of the Axe, or to a port like Clausentum, which, being nearer to the coast of Gaul, would relieve them from the necessity of making the long and perilous voyage round the Land's End. Their road, which followed for the most part the course of an ancient British trackway, was carefully traced out by Sir Richard Hoare, and his surveyor, Mr Crocker, in its course over the hills between Old Sarum and Uphill. It passed by Charterhouse, the head quarters of the Roman mining district, to the left of Dolebury Camp, through Shipham, skirting the southern sides of Sandford and Banwell Hills, and the north side of Bleadon Hill, till it reached the station at Uphill, designated by Mr. Leman "ad Axium."

Although the iron of Elba was smelted and worked by the Etruscans (Diod. Sic. v. 13. Varro) some hundreds of years before the Christian era, it was not until the Roman conquests had extended into the iron-producing countries that the use of this metal began extensively to prevail, and the use of bronze to decline. According to Cæsar, iron was known to the British, but only in the form of money. The Roman smelting of iron was very extensive in the Forest of Dean, and in Sussex; but although a great deal of iron ore may be dug on the Mendip range, I am not aware that any traces of iron workings are to be found nearer to this district than on the Brendon Hills, near Minehead.

As brass seems to have been known to the Romans\* (the

\* Mr. Crawford in a paper on 'Cæsar's account of Britain' published in the Volume of Transactions of the Ethnological Society of London, for 1867, says that brass "was unknown to the Romans, who were even ignorant of zinc, one of its ingredients." On the other hand, the analysis of one of several very bright coins of the reigns of Domitian, Trajan, and Hadrian, found three or four years ago at Latton, near Cirencester, showed a result of nineteen parts of zinc to eighty of copper. Dr. Re,

analysis of coins of the Empire, showing the presence of zinc), it is probable that the lapis calaminaris (a carbonate of zinc which, in combination with copper, forms brass), which abounds on the hills at Shipham, and Rowberrow, was not unheeded by them. The gathering of this mineral, until blende or sulphuret of zinc was introduced from Flintshire about thirty or forty years ago, furnished the inhabitants of those villages with constant occupation. I have heard from a neighbour, within the last few days, that the Swansea Copper Workers have been recently negotiating for renewed supplies of the Mendip calamine.

Your attention will be called to-morrow to a very interesting relic of these Roman times. At Charterhouse (so called from there having been at this place a cell of the Carthusian monastery at Witham) there is still remaining a Roman Amphitheatre, in a very perfect state, and with the three entrances well defined. The more sensitive and imaginative portion of the excursionists need not suppose that any of our Belgic-British ancestors were here

“Butchered to make a Roman('s) holiday,”

for as slaves and mine-workers for their foreign masters their lives were far too valuable to be thus disposed of. We may be content to believe that here were slaughtered no creatures of greater value than the wolves and the boars, which haunted the large forests which then clothed the sides of the Mendip Hills. Possibly there were also exhibited here some of those brutal pugilistic combats, which, in all their disgusting details are to be seen represented upon the tessellated pavements now in the great hall of the Lateran Palace; for Romans were always Romans wherever they went. That they spent their

in his Dictionary, article ‘Alloys,’ says, “It is not a little curious to find that some of the coins of high antiquity contain zinc, which does not appear to have been known as a metal before 1280, when Albertus Magnus speaks of zinc as a semi-metal.” The probability is that calamine (zinc ore) was known from the earliest times as a peculiar earth, although it was not thought to be an ore of zinc or of any other metal. (See Wilts Arch. Magazine, Vol. 9.)

lives pleasantly enough in our island is plain from the number of villas which they built in the most attractive spots. On their tessellated pavements, as we may see in the Society's Museum at Taunton, they exhibited their fondness for the chase; and we have every reason to believe that in this County of Somerset, with its hot baths, and pleasant valleys, with its hills, and its forests, our Roman conquerors had less reason to regret their southern skies and imperial city than many others of that nation whose lot was cast in less favoured portions of their almost unbounded dominion.

To make our Caves our Downs and our Valleys supply us with knowledge where history fails us, and confirm or explain our knowledge where history speaks, but with feeble accents, is a matter at once of surpassing interest, and of considerable importance. The value of earth-work evidence, even in relation to historic times, was fully recognized by that admirable archæologist Dr. Guest, when he carefully examined the country between Bath and Wells for traces of the boundaries that separated the Welsh and English races, during the seventy-five years which followed the capture of Bath A.D. 577, (Arch. Journal Vol. xvi.) Our Mendip Hills have not in this respect received the full measure of attention that they deserve, and if any Members of this Society having time at their disposal, would carefully examine the entire range from Maesbury Castle to Brean Down, together with the outlying heights on the northern side, taking note of such traces of man's former occupation as still remain unobliterated, they might yet add considerably to our stock of data for the solution of the questions which still perplex us.

Mr. E. CHISHOLM BATTEN proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his admirable address, which would, he said render the district they proposed to see much more intelligible than it could otherwise possibly have been.

The proposition was unanimously assented to, and the PRESIDENT briefly acknowledged the same.

The REV. W. HUNT then read a paper on the "Muniments of Axbridge," which is printed in Part II.

MR. E. A. FREEMAN made some remarks on the origin and constitution of our Municipal Institutions, and especially on the powers and privileges of Superior Burgesses.

MR. KNYFTON said, that shortly after his appointment to the office of recorder, some thirty years ago, he had examined the muniments belonging to the corporation, and was assisted on that occasion by two gentlemen, both men of great antiquarian research; and one by the late Mr. Peter Fry, a solicitor, resident there, an extremely intelligent man, and who took a very lively interest in the past history of his native town, and who himself produced some very old documents. The conclusion arrived at was that the borough was a market town long anterior to the conquest, and that subsequently, through several reigns, it returned two members to Parliament. It also appeared quite clear that a considerable trade was carried on there. In some of the documents produced reference was made to individuals who were described as merchants. Formerly the river Axe was navigable for coal vessels, and other small craft, as far as Axbridge, and so continued till the beginning of this century, when its navigation was stopped at Bleadon, under the provisions of the "Axe Drainage Act," which was passed in 1802. Down to the time of Elizabeth the town was one of considerable importance, and there was every reason to believe that it was as large then as it is now.

MR. T. SEREL then read a paper on the "Manors of Axbridge and Cheddar." Mr. Serel stated that Cheddar originally consisted of one great manor, but at the time of the Norman survey there were three smaller manors. The manors of Axbridge and Cheddar were granted by King

John to Hughe de Welles, by charter. The manors did not long continue in the holding of Hugh de Welles, as it seems certain that he had granted the property to his kinsman, Thomas de Welles, before 1209, (in which year he became Bishop of Lincoln) on a reserve rent. Soon after Thomas de Welles granted the town of Axbridge to Maurice de Gaunt, who subsequently transferred it to Bishop Joceline to whom also his brother Hugh of Lincoln made a release of the half mark reserved on the grant to Maurice de Gaunt. Both manors continued in the possession of the Church of Wells for a very long period, probably before the reformation. The manor of Cheddar was undoubtedly held by the church until 1548, when Bishop Barlow surrendered it with other estates to Edward VI, who in 1552 gave them to Sir Edward Seymour, and he, in 1556, sold the manor of Cheddar, usually known as Cheddar Episcopi, to Sir John Thynne, ancestor of the Marquis of Bath, the present owner.

Mr. Serel then gave particulars of the smaller Cheddar manors, known as the Cheddar Berkley, Cheddar Hannam, and Cheddar Fitzwaters, as well as of the Rectory Manor, leased by the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral. The extent of this latter property is about 250 acres, the rectorial rent charge is about £400 per annum, and the reversion is now vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Cheddar Hannam was owned by the great family of Cheddar. In late years the manor, stripped of a considerable part of the lands formerly held with it, came into the possession of Mr. Walter Long, whose descendant is still the owner. A portion of the estate seems to have constituted the small manor of Cheddar Berkley, and this was obtained by Mr. Alexander Popham, who sold the property to different persons.

The manor of Cheddar Fitzwalter or Fitzwaters was granted by King Stephen to Walter Malerbe. In the 15th century it was held by an old Cheddar family named Roo or Roe. In the early part of the 17th century it was in the family of Lancaster. The estate became heavily encumbered and all the charges were centred on Mr. James Birch, of the Middle Temple, in the year 1740, and by a deed dated 27th August 1748, the owners conveyed the entire freehold in the estate to him.

### Notes on an Old Cross.

Mr. CHARLES POOLEY, F.S.A., of Weston-super-Mare, author of "The Old Crosses of Gloucestershire," communicated some notes on the head of an old cross, found in July of the present year.

The stone, which was found in pulling down an old cottage at East Harptree, and formed the front part of the basement of the chimney stack, is evidently the head of an old churchyard or village cross, probably the former, and is remarkable, in Mr. Pooley's opinion, as being the work of the early part of the 13th century. On one side the Crucifixion is represented, the figures being carved in bold relief. That of the Saviour is remarkably well depicted, and is very characteristic of the date of its execution. The head is thrown a little to the right side, and is crowned with a twisted wreath. The hair is parted and flows in long wavy locks to the neck. The eyes are closed in death. The upper part of the body is nude to the navel. Below this the figure is draped by a cloth round the loins, which falls in a graceful fold to the knees. The legs are crossed in a painful position, in order that one nail only may be made to fasten both feet. On the right side of the cross stands Mary, the mother of Jesus,



dressed in a long robe, which reaches in twisted folds to the ground. St. John stands on the left side, his arms apparently crossed, and habited in alb and cope. In the other compartment the figures of the Virgin and child and a young person kneeling in the act of adoration, are distinctly visible.

The stone is grey lias, and the angles and chiselling are as sharp as when first executed. A peculiarity worthy of notice is that the dresses of the figures have been coloured; remains of the colouring (red) are still to be seen on the loin cloth of the Saviour and on part of St. John.

### *Abbridge Church.*

The members then visited this church, the architectural features of which were described by Mr. FREEMAN. It is a cross church with a central tower. The nave has no clerestory. The transepts are very small, the projections being swallowed up by the aisles and chapels which exist at the east ends. The chancel is a very inferior composition to the rest of the church, which is a common feature throughout the churches in Somerset. The niches have the statues left in them. The parapets are characteristic of the north part of the county. South of the Mendips, heavy battlements sometimes panelled, take the place of the pierced parapets. The church in the interior appears a well-arranged and harmonious whole, mainly because the tower is part of the design itself, and is not a tower preserved from an older building. Although the nave has no clerestory and has not the majesty of Wrington, the pillars and arches are very well worked. The coved roof is a very creditable work of the 17th century. If the church were restored it is hoped the roof will be preserved.

The altar cloth attracted much attention. It is a piece of needlework by Mrs. Abigail Prowse, to whose family there are several monuments in the church. Its date is 1720.

A large party then visited the CHURCHES of CHEDDAR, and RODNEY STOKE, when the Rev. PREBENDARY FAGAN gave an interesting account of the family of Rodney, whose monuments are in the church.

The members returned to Axbridge to dinner. After the usual toasts, the health of the Mayor, the Alderman and the Corporation of Axbridge was proposed by the President, and formal thanks presented to them for the courtesy extended by them to the members of the Society, to which Mr. G. MILLARD, Mayor, and Mr. TREW, the Alderman of Axbridge, responded.

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## Evening Meeting.

The Rev. PREBENDARY SCARTH read a paper by Mr. Atkinson, on the British Stations at Clifton, Bower Walls, and Stokeleigh, to which Mr. Scarth added observations on the Structure of Ancient Ramparts.

Mr. MOORE read a paper on the Geology of the Mendips.

The Rev. J. EARLE made some interesting remarks on the Muniments of Axbridge.

A paper on the "Rodentia of the Somerset Caves" by Mr. W. A. SANFORD, closed the proceedings.

Abstracts of the foregoing papers will be given in Part II.

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and to the Local Secretary, the Rev. W. Hunt, for their valuable services ; to the gentlemen, who had entertained the Society, for their hospitality ; to Mr. Parker, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Boyd Dawkins, Mr. Moore, and others for their valuable observations on the places visited.

The cordial thanks of the meeting having been carried by acclamation to the President, the Annual Meeting was declared to be concluded.

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## Conversazione Meetings.

1869.

### *February 22nd.*

On the Study of Civilization, by E. B. TYLER, Esq.  
Historical Sketches of Taunton : on The Western  
Circuit and the Assize held at Taunton A.D. 1597,  
—A.D. 1600, by the Rev. W. A. JONES.

On the Scilly Isles, by H. J. ALFORD, Esq.

### *March 29th.*

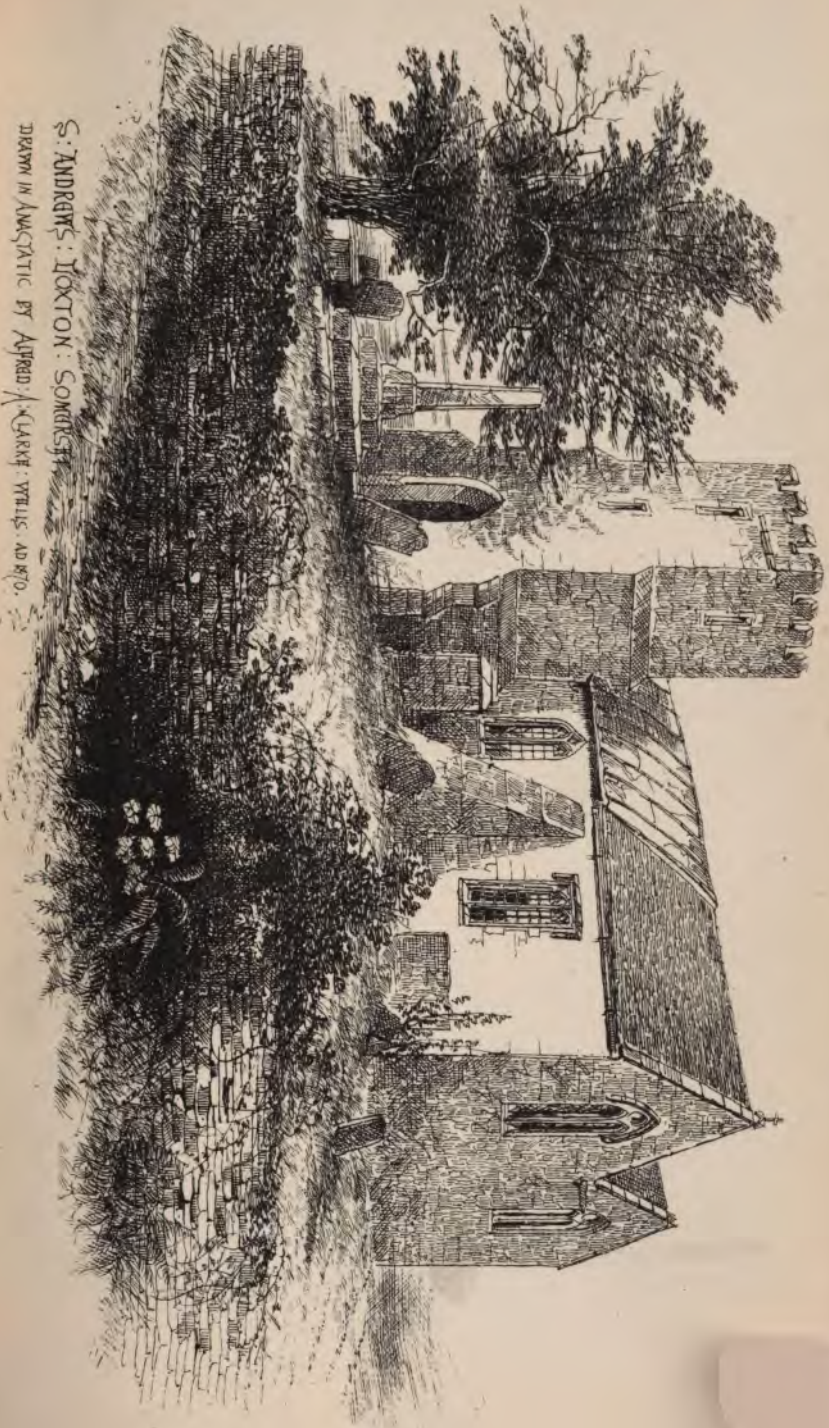
On the Danes in Somersetshire, by the Rev. W. A.  
JONES.

On the Rainbow, by H. TOOTELL, Esq.

On the Somersetshire Dialect, by the Rev. W. P.  
WILLIAMS.

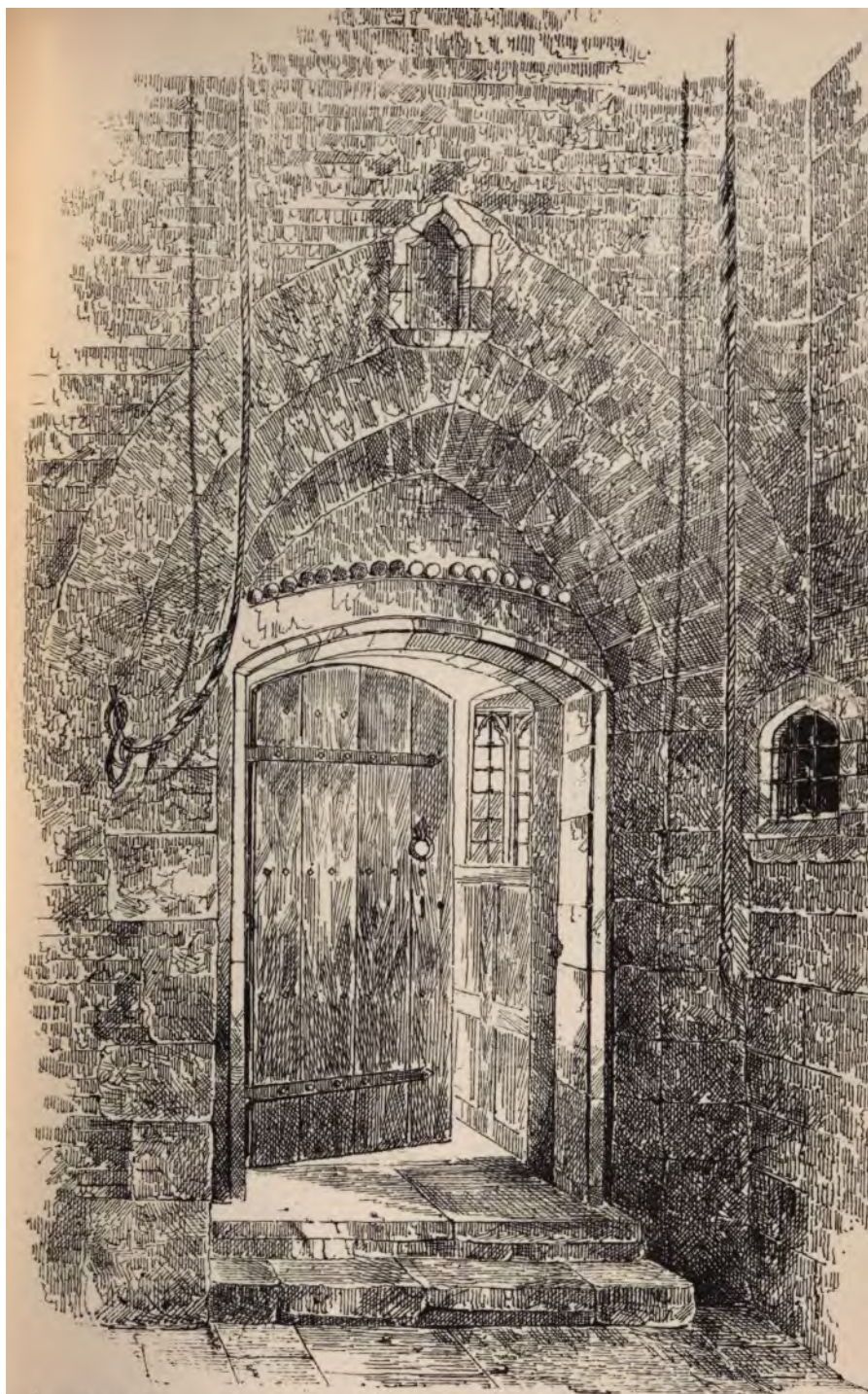
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S. ANDREWS: DOXTON: SOMERSET.  
DRAWN IN AENGATIC BY ALFRED JACKY VILLIS. AD 1870.







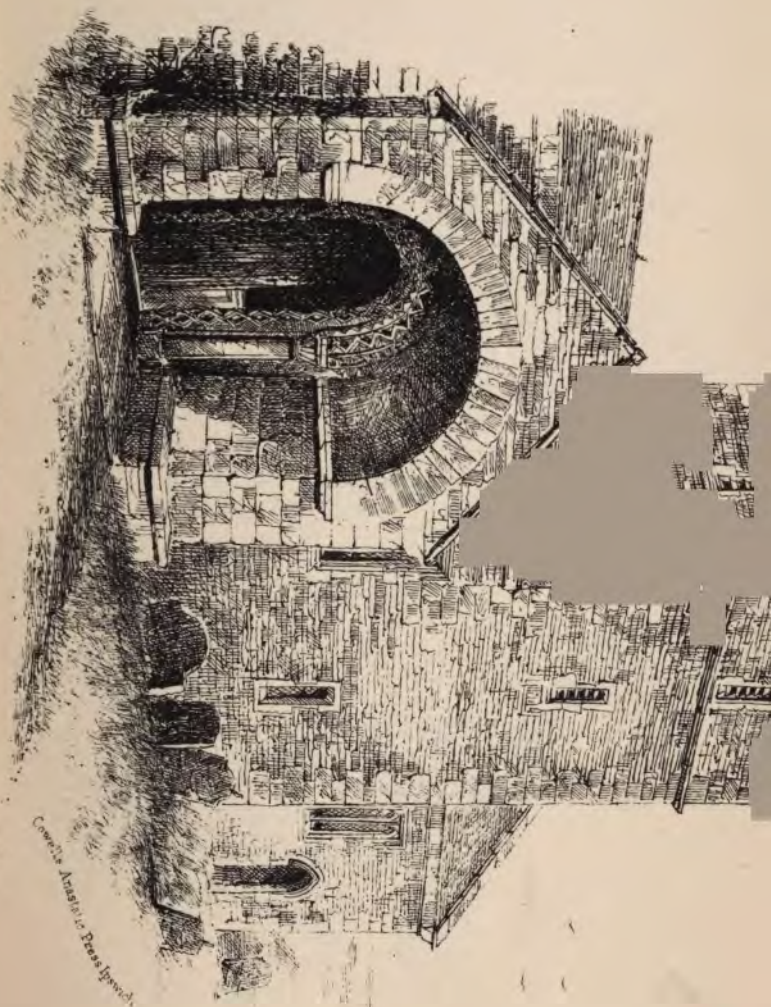


LOXTON CHURCH. THE SOUTH DOORWAY AND HAGIOSCOPE.

DRAWN IN ANASTATIC BY ALFRED A. CLARKE, F.R.S., 1851.



CHRISTON CHURCH: SOMERSET. FROM THE SOUTHWEST.  
 DRAWN IN ANASTATIC BY ALFRED A. CLARKE. 1870.

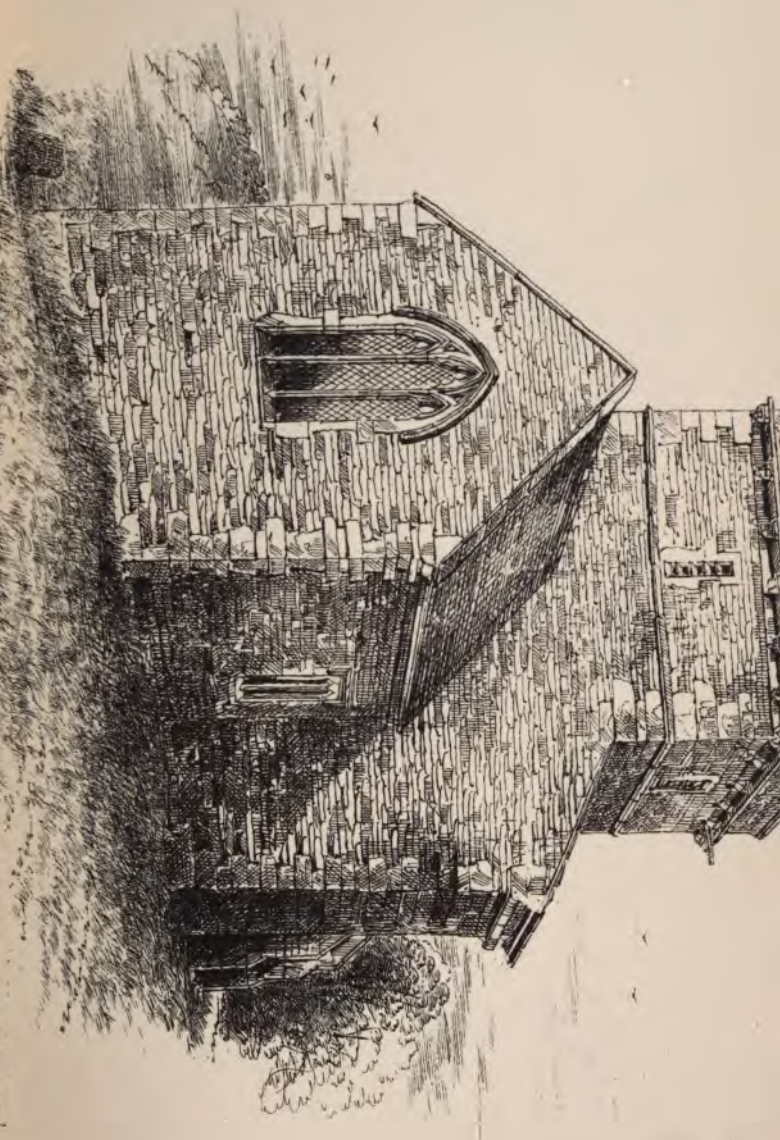






*Cowell's Analytic Press, Ipswich.*

CHRISTON CHURCH, SOMERSET, ENGLAND.  
DRAWN IN PENCIL BY ALFRED A. CURRY, WALLS.







CHRISTON CHURCH SOMERSET THE INTERIOR LOOKING EAST.  
DRAWN IN ANASTATIC BY ALFRED. A. CLARKE WELLS. A.D. 1870.



## Local Museum.

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Among the objects of interest exhibited were the following :—

The Charters and Muniments of the Corporation of Axbridge. Roman Coins found in the neighbourhood, by Miss HALLAM : Encaustic Tiles found at Athelney, by Mr. R. K. MEADE KING : Piece of Roman Glass found at Bath, by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH : Fossils, &c., of the district. A very interesting Pedigree of the family of Jones, of Mendip Lodge, with armorial bearings, exhibited by Miss SOMERS of Mendip Lodge : A bronze Spear-head, by Mr. TREW, &c.

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## The Museum.

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Additions since the publication of last Volume :—

*Journal of the Royal Dublin Society.*

*Journal of the British Archæological Association.*

*Journal of the Historic and Archæological Association of Ireland.*

VOL. XV., 1868-9, PART I.

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*Quarterly Journal of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History.*

*Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalist's Society.*

*Surrey Archæological Collections*, vol. 4.

*Proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*. No. 3. by the Rev. H. H. WINWOOD.

*Memoirs of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester*, vol. 3, third series

*Proceedings of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester*, vols. 5, 6 7.

*The Archæological Journal.*

*Nature*, from the Proprietor.

*Sussex Archæological Collections*, vol. 20.

*Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, new series, vol. 7.

*Report for 1867 of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.*

*Proceedings of the Essex Institute, Mass, U.S.*

*Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, second series, vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

*Almanac for the year 1683*, by Mr. H. H. BALL.

*Index to Pedigrees contained in the printed Herald's Visitations ; Catalogues of Pedigrees hitherto unindexed ; Pedigree of Sir Philip Sydney ; Handbook of American Genealogy ; and Rubbing of Palimpsest Brasses from Paston Church, Norfolk*, by Mr. G. W. MARSHALL, L.L.M.

*Collectanea Antiqua*, vols, 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 ; *On the Scarcity of Home-grown Fruits in Great Britain, with remedial suggestions ; and The Principles of Agriculture*, by the Author, Mr. C. ROACH SMITH.

*The Birds of Somersetshire*, by the Author, Mr. C. SMITH.

*The Old Crosses of Gloucestershire*, by the Author, Mr. C. POOLEY F.S.A.R.

*Mémoires pour servir à la Connaissance des Crinoides Vivants* par M. Sars : *Etudes sur les Affinités Chimiques* par M. Goldberg et M. Waage : *Le Glacier de Boium* par M. Seze : *Various species of Balæna* by M. G. O. Sars : *Ägyptische Chronologie* von Herr Lièblein : *Fortælling om Thomas Becket, Erkebiskop af Canterbury*, presented by the Royal University of Norway, Christiania.

Two teeth of Indian Elephant, and piece of Rhinoceros hide, by Mr. O. W. MALET.

Mountain Limestone fossil, from the conglomerate bed at Halse, by Dr. PRIOR.

Skull of *Bos primigenius* and skull of *Bos longifrons* from the Clay Pits, Bridgwater, by Mr. JNO. BROWNE.

Elephant's teeth, and other teeth and bones, from Wookey Hyæna den, by Mr. W. A. SANFORD.

Portrait of the Rev. Joseph Hunter, F.S.A., by Dr. HUNTER.

Pottery and bones and specimens of Kimmeridge Coal Money, from the Brick Clay Pits, Burnham, by Mr. J. P. ESTLIN.

Bronze Hand found among the Roman remains at Wadeford, near Chard, by Mr. R. WALTER.

Albatross, two Lizards, and Fish from Australia, by Mr. J. CLODE.

Impression of a brass Seal found near Helston, Cornwall, by Mr. R. WALTER.

Flint Arrow-head found on Dolbury Camp, by Mr. S. ALFORD.

Pedigree, and Coats of Arms in the chapel at Lytes Cary, by Mr. H. MAXWELL LYTE.

Flying Fish from the coast of Brazil, by Capt. R. R. LANGDON.

Coins of the Roman Emperors Lucinius, Constantine



the Great, and Constantine the Younger, found in the Turbery at Shapwick, by Mr. G. WARRY.

Coffin and Mummy from the neighbourhood of Thebes, by Capt. ELLIS.

*Purchased :—*

*Palæontographical Society's Journal.*

*Ray Society's Publications.*

*Deposited :—*

Model of a New Zealand War Canoe, by Mr. W. CULLEN.

Bust of the late J. H. S. Pigott, Esq., by Mr. EDWIN S. FOX.

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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

1868-9, PART II.

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PAPERS, ETC.

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*Mendip Mining Laws.*

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“THE Laws and orders of the Mendip Miners, commonly called Lord Choke’s Laws,” are printed in the “General View of the Agriculture of the County of Somerset, &c., by John Billingsley, Esq., of Ashwick Grove, near Shepton Mallet,” published at Bath, 1797. As that work is but little known in these days, and the Mining Laws of Mendip therein given contain several inaccuracies, it has been thought desirable to reprint them verbatim from a MS. exhibited by Mr. C. Edwards, of Wrington, at the Meeting of the Society held at Axbridge, in 1869.

The most striking variations are the following :—Lord Benfield—for Bonvill : the addition of “the Lord Chief Justice of England” to the name of Lord Chocke : “to go down and sit in concord and peace in the said County,”

instead of "and settle a concord of peace in the County" the Earl of Chewton, instead of "Lord of Chewton," "lead-reeve," instead of "head-reeve," : "hackes," for "harcks," "groofs," for "grooves."

The Mendip Laws are likewise given in "Notes on the History of Shepton Mallet, &c.," by Mr. J. E. Fairbrother, copied from an ancient map, painted on panels, entitled "Meyndeep with its adjacent Villages and Laws." The original was exhibited at the meeting of the society held at Shepton Mallet.

WM. ARTHUR JONES.

### THE LAWS OF MENDIP

SETTLED BY LORD CHOCKE, IN OR NEAR THE YEAR 1470.

Be it right well known that this is enrolled in the King's Exchequer, in the time of King Edward the Fourth : Of a great Debate that was in the County of Somerset between the Lord Bonvil's Tenants of Chewton and the Prior of Green Oar. The said Prior of Green Oar complaining to King Edward of great injuries and wrongs that he had on Mendip, being the King's Forest : The said King Edward commanded my Lord Chocke to go down into the Country of Mendip and settle a concord of peace in the County upon Mendip upon pain of his high displeasure. The said Lord Chocke sate upon a place of my Lord of Bath's, called the Forge upon Mendip, when he commanded all the Commoners to appear, and in especial the Four Lords Royal of Mendip, (viz) : The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, my Lord of Glastonbury, my Lord Bonvill, Lord of Chewton, and my Lord of Richmond, with all the appearances to the number of ten thousand people. A Proclamation was made to enquire of all the said company how they would be

ordered. They all with one assent agreed to be ordered and Tried by the Four Lords Royal. Then the said Lords agreed that all the Commoners of Mendip, dwelling in their Tenements, being within the bounds of Mendip, shou'd turn out their cattle at their outlets as much the summer as they be able to keep the winter without Hounding or Pounding upon whose ground soever they went to take their course and recourse. To this the said Four Lords did put their Seals, and also were agreed that whosoever should break any of those bounds should forfeit to the King a Thousand Marks, and all the Commoners their Bodies and Goods at the King's pleasure that either Hounds or Pounds.

\* IRROT' IN SCCO' DUCC' REGINÆ

#### THE ANCIENT CUSTOM OF

The occupation of the Mineries in and upon the Mendip within His Majesty's County of Somerset, being one of the Four Staples of England, which hath been exercised and continued through the King's Forest on Mendip aforesaid time out of mind before the memory of man, as hereinafter doth particularly ensue, &c.

#### *Imprimis :*

That if any man whatsoever he be that doth intend to be a workman to tenure his life in the Minery occupation, he must first of all require a Licence from the Lord of the soil where he doth propose to work, or in his absence, of his officer, or head Reve, or Bailiff, and neither the Lord nor his officers can deny him.

#### *Item :*

That after the first Licence obtained, the workmen

\* In a M.S. copy of these Laws in the possession of Mr. Serel, of Wells, "Irrot' in Staneria Dni R's."

shall never need to ask leave again, but to be at his free will to pitch within the said Forest, and to break the ground where and in what place he shall think most for his advantage.

*Item :*

That every man that doth begin his Pit or Groove, shall have his Harcks thrown two ways after the Rake ; and Note, that he that doth throw the Harck, must stand in his said Groove, to the girdle or waist, and then no man shall, or may work, within the compass of his said Harcks throw.

*Item :*

That when a man hath landed any Oar he may carry the same to Cleansing and Blowing to what Minery he shall think fit, for the more speedy making the same, so that he do truly pay the tenth thereof to the Lord of the Soil where it was landed.

*Item :*

That if any Lord or his officer have given Licence to any man to build or set any Hearth or Washing House, to wash, cleanse, and blow their Oar, He that hath once leave shall for ever keep sell or give it to whom he please, so that he doth truly pay the Lot Lead, being the tenth pound that shall be blown at the same Hearth, and also if he keep it tenable as the Craft doth require.

*Item :*

That if any man of the occupation do Pick or Steal any Lead or Lead Oar to the value of Thirteen pence half-penny, the Lord or his officer may arrest all his Lead and Oar, House or Hearths, with all his Grooves and works, and keep them as forfeit to his own use, and shall take the person so offending and bring him where his House or work and all his Tools and Instruments belonging

to the same occupation are, and put him into his House or work and set Fire in all together about him, and banish him from the occupation before all the Mineries for ever.

*Item :*

That if ever that person do Pick or Steal there any more, he shall be tryed by the Common Law, for this Custom and Law hath no more to do with him.

*Item :*

That every Lord of the Soil or Soils ought to keep two Minery Courts by the year, and to swear twelve men or more of the same occupation for ordering all misdemeanours and wrongs, touching the Mineries.

*Item :*

The Lord or Lords may make three manner of Arrests (that is to say) The First is for Strife between Man and Man, for their works under the Earth. The Second is for his own duty for Lead or Oar wheresover he finds it in the said Forest ; and the Third is for the Felon's Goods of the same occupation wheresoever it may be found within the same Hill.

*Item :*

That if any man by means of this doubtful and dangerous occupation do by misfortune take his death, as by falling in of the Earth upon him, by Drowning, by Stifeling with Fire, or otherwise, as in time past may have been : The workmen of this occupation are bound to fetch the body out of the Earth, and bring him to Christian Burial at their own costs and charges, alltho' he be three score Fathom under the Earth, as heretofore hath been seen, and no officer at large shall have to do with him or them.

These are the Laws of Mendip, made between the years 1470 and 1480.

# On the Charters and Municipal Government of Axbridge.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM HUNT, M.A., VICAR OF  
CONGRESBURY WITH WICK.

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BEFORE I begin to attempt an account of what I believe to have been the state of the internal government of Axbridge in different stages of its history, I will briefly enumerate some of the curious and important muniments which the courtesy of the Burgesses has placed before us. First in importance are the four Royal Charters of the town, viz. : that granted by Henry VI, which in some way escaped the notice of Mr. Smirke when he inspected the records of the Corporation ; the Charter of 3 and 4 Philip and Mary ; that of 41 Elizabeth, the one held as the present governing Charter of the town ; and lastly, one of 21 James I.

Next to these in importance, and almost before them in interest, is the curious MSS. we have before us, one copy of which is of the early part of the fifteenth century. Mr. Jones, yesterday in looking through the municipal records, found an earlier MS. than the one which has, as far as we know, been heretofore received as the only copy. I do not myself think that it is earlier than quite the end of the fourteenth century. They begin with a short treatise on

English boroughs, and then tell the story of the miraculous escape of King Eadmund while hunting in the royal forest of Cheddar, the later MS. ends with an account of the government of the borough of Axbridge and an extract from the Domesday Book, but the earlier one adds a copy of the Charter of John which is referred to in the *Inspeximus* Charter of Henry VI.

Most unfortunately the two translations belonging to the Corporation are disfigured by some strange mistakes, especially one which has turned Eadmund into Eadward, and in one case adds in brackets, "the Confessor," no doubt from a sort of strange superstition, which one has met with before, that every one before the Norman Conquest was either Alfred or St. Eadward, and which may possibly be corrected by a careful reading of Mr. Freeman's first two volumes of the Norman Conquest. Mr. Smirke read a very able paper on this Treatise before the Archæological Institute, which is printed in one of the volumes of that society, and to which I gladly acknowledge my obligations. I venture to hope that this society will, with the permission of the Corporation, print this most interesting document in our volume for this year, together with one or two entries of a later date in the Convocation Books, which I have been encouraged to think we shall be allowed to extract.

Besides the two MSS. of this treatise, we have before us a valuable collection of deeds and grants of various dates, amongst which I may mention one of Henry III, granting freedom from toll to the tenants of the churches of Glastonbury and Wells. And lastly the Convocation Books, Rolls of the Court Baron, &c., which contain many interesting and amusing entries.



Before I go on, I must express my warmest thanks to the Mayor, the Alderman, and other Burgesses of the town for the great courtesy which they have shown me in allowing me to burrow amongst their valuable records, and in so kindly bringing them before us to-day. Their kindness makes me hope that without offending them, I may point out that an iron safe would be a far better place for their documents than the present wooden cupboard close by the fireplace. I am sure that there is not a Burgess in the town who will not agree with me, when he considers the irreparable loss which an accidental fire would occasion.

I will now pass on to the facts which I have gathered from these and other authorities, and the opinions which I have been led to form from them. Two years ago, when we met in Bristol, I endeavoured to trace the causes of the growth of that borough, and we saw how intimately its history was affected by its foreign commerce ; but Axbridge, though at least as ancient a borough as Bristol, has never, as far as I know, been distinctly commercial, and for this reason it has less history, and we have not the same power of fixing the date of the changes in its constitution as we have in the case of those boroughs which were more strongly affected by the great changes of thought and of style of living, which were brought in by each commercial wave. The earliest notice which we have of Axbridge shows us that before, and at the time of, the Conquest it was a part of the King's demesne land, and it seems implied that it was a part of the royal demesne of Cheddar. It then contained thirty-two burgesses, who paid a rent of twenty shillings to the crown, two mills, three fisheries, and some land, all which also paid to the King. It is not, I think, difficult to determine the political condition of these

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burgesses. They were of course freemen, and more than this they were freeholders like the other freeholders of the county, that is to say, they held their land at a fixed yearly rent which they paid to their lord. This lord was the King, who held Axbridge, Cheddar, Somerton, and some other neighbouring places as his own private estate, and this was no small advantage to the borough, for the crown was always the best lord, and so long as the burgesses paid their fixed rent they were far less interfered with, and tyrannized over than the tenants of other lords. Like all freeholders, they had their own reeve, for the portreeve was to the borough what the shirereeve was to the county; he was the representative of the crown, and his Court was the Court of the freeholders or burgesses, who were in Axbridge, and in all 'royal boroughs', tenants of the crown.

We must not, I think, be led by the phrase, "in dominio," to think too little of the position of the burgesses of the eleventh century. They held their land by a fixed tenure. They possessed, we cannot doubt, rights of heirship, and such rights of alienation as belonged to the freeholders of the kingdom in general, they were amenable to the jurisdiction of their lord, but this jurisdiction was exercised by an officer chosen from amongst themselves, his court was held in accordance with their own customs, and in it they were assessors as well as suitors. It is difficult to say when our English towns first enjoyed the right of electing their reeve, it is possible that they may have done so in some degree from very early times, the lord having a right of negative, and also, no doubt occasionally putting in his own men, but still it seems to me more likely that he was at first regularly appointed by

the lord, whose representative he was, and that the right of election was gradually gained by our towns. The MS. of the end of the fourteenth century before us, boldly asserts that in the eleventh century the portreeve of Axbridge was elected by, and from out of, fourteen socmen, wardmen, or aldermen. I venture to believe that this is altogether a mistake, as I cannot but think that the reeve was more generally appointed by the lord, and that his office was chiefly to look after his interests ; and as to the fourteen aldermen, '*seniores principales*' it seems impossible that there should have been so many who exercised jurisdiction, when the whole number of the burgesses was only thirty-two ; and the very fact of the right of electing the portreeve being confined to a certain number of the burgesses, seems to point to a far later state of things of which I will speak directly.

This town, probably, owed its existence to the fact that many of our early English kings had a hunting seat in the royal forest of Cheddar ; and in the time of Eadward the Confessor, the royal manours of Cheddar and Somerton, with their appendages, of which Axbridge was one, yielded to the crown, as part of their yearly rent, one night's entertainment, which was no doubt levied when the royal saint pursued his favourite amusement of hunting. But at the same time I do not, of course, for a moment agree with our MS. in the statement to which Mr. Smirke seems to give a sort of assent, that our kings established the borough of Axbridge, and other boroughs, in order that they might have so many country houses or hunting seats throughout the kingdom. Of all the many theories which have been put forward about the rise of boroughs this is the most grotesque. Our English towns grew of

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themselves, and were not established by any particular decree, or because of any special council. Purely English towns, by which I mean those whose known history is confined to English times, came into being either because men chose to dwell at some spot which had special natural advantages, such as Bristol once had for trade, or else they grew from a few houses near the castle or house of some great man, as Axbridge grew round the royal hunting seat of Cheddar, or else from those which clustered round some cathedral church or abbey ; but in any case we may be quite sure that their birth was natural.

The town did not remain in the king's demesne after the twelfth century. The manour of Cheddar and the Borough of Axbridge, together with the hundreds of Wynterstoke and Cheddar were granted by King John to Hugh, Archdeacon of Wells, at the rent of £20 a year. Henry III granted Cheddar and Axbridge to Joceline, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in free alms. From that see they passed in the reign of Edward I to the Bishop of Lincoln, who granted the advocacy of Axbridge church to his brother of Bath, and in the next reign, Axbridge and Cheddar passed again to the see of Bath and Wells, to which they belonged till Bishop Barlow changed them away with Edward VI. I am sorry to say that I have not yet been able to discover any records of the dealings of the town with its ecclesiastical lords. Churchmen were, I fear, not generally such good landlords as laymen, and a town which belonged to a bishopric or abbey, in most cases gained its franchises later than those which belonged to the crown or to lay nobles. But there is no reason to suppose that this town was in any worse condition for these alienations ; we have seen that when it

belonged to the crown the burgesses were without doubt freeholders, and enjoyed the privileges which belonged to those who held by freeholding; and when the town was alienated they simply changed their lord, indeed at the very time that this change was made, we find that the rights of the borough were considerably increased. The Charter of John, copied in the fourteenth century MS. before you, and quoted by the Charter of Henry VI, exempts the burgesses from serving on juries, it quits them from all suits of the shire, and from the interference of the sheriff, and frees them from the fines for murder; and then the town, with the adjoining manour, is distinctly recognized as possessing an existence independent of the rest of the county, with an exemption from county burdens and jurisdiction. About the same time we have a proof of the increasing material prosperity of the borough, given us by the establishment of a fair to be opened on the eve of the feast of St. Barnabas, and held for three days following. This fair was granted by Henry III to William Longsword, grandson of Henry II, and afterwards by Edward I to the Bishop of Bath and Wells by a deed of grant still preserved here. An annual fair was at that time a far more important institution than it has ever been since. It is almost impossible for us to realize how difficult and how dangerous it was to travel in those days. Very few inhabitants of Axbridge ever went more than a very short distance from their own town, and very few consignments of goods were ever made to them. The annual fair was the great opportunity of buying and selling for the town and the neighbouring population. Traders from all parts of the land would probably flock hither, bringing with them wares which the good men of

the town had never seen before ; and they took back with them the produce of the industry of the borough, of which tanned hides probably formed an important part ; for two leather searchers were annually elected as borough officers until quite modern times, whose duty it was to test the bundles of hides sold in the borough. The importance of such fairs as this would be greatly increased, if, as I believe was probably the case, the burdensome restrictions on our home trades and manufacturers were but laxly observed at such times. All tolls were paid to the lord of the fair, and he held a court called *Pie Poudre*, presided over by his steward, for trying all cases which might arise during its continuance. The burghers of Axbridge had not only this opportunity of trading with strangers within their own walls, but by a Charter granted 19 Edward III, they, in common with all tenants of the churches of Bath and Wells, were made free of all toll throughout the kingdom. This was no small exemption at a time when toll was levied everywhere ; when a man could not take a bale of goods from one town to another without paying numberless vexatious demands either for crossing a bridge, or entering a gate, or passing a ferry, or going through some lord's demesne which lay in his way. Many such tolls were collected in the king's lands, and in those of his lords. A grant, however, of exemption by royal Charter even when the words '*per totum regnum*' are used as here, and as in the Charter given to London by Henry I, and to Bristol by Henry II, could not convey exemption from tolls save those which were taken on the king's demesne.

In the sixth year of King Henry VI this borough received the first of the four royal Charters of which the

originals are still known to be extant. It states and confirms the previous position of the town, and begins with the entry in Domesday Book, which has I think a special significance. As one town after another received great Charters from the crown, those whose rights depended chiefly on immemorial prescription, on the fact of having been held by burgage tenure, were most probably especially anxious to assert their legal status and for this reason the ancient position of the burgesses of Axbridge is stated at length. It then gives an *Inspeximus* of the Charter of John, which I have already mentioned, and of his grant of the town to Hugh of Wells.

To a rather earlier date belongs the curious MS. which lies before us, of the story of the miraculous escape of King Eadmund. It is certainly not older than 1386, and may be within about thirty years of the same date as that which has usually been received as the oldest copy. It tells us that in the time of the early English kings there were in this town fourteen burgesses of superior rank to the rest, (for this I think must be the meaning of '*principales*') by whom, and from whom alone, the portreeve was chosen. Now I venture to submit that such a state of things is entirely unlike what we know to have existed in our English boroughs in very early times. Whether the burgesses were united as in this borough, by being all freehold tenants of one lord, or as was generally the case in great trading cities, by being brethren of some merchant guild, (a bond which superseded the older, and I believe once universal, one of tenure), they were all of equal rank and had equal rights. But gradually throughout England the richer burghers, men perhaps of families in which civic dignities had become almost hereditary, began to shut out

the rest from their fair share in the management of the town, and to form a sort of select body which usurped to itself the rights which of old belonged to each and all. In London this began early, and in 1256 the greater burghers and the lesser—contemptuously called ‘*minutus populus*’—were engaged in a sharp struggle for the mastery; the great contest in Bristol came to a climax in the rebellion in the reign of Edward II; other towns were the scene of the same struggle, but in all cases the oligarchy had the victory, and there was established either by consent or by special act, a select body of men, who afterwards became the Common Council, who arrogated to themselves the common right of deliberation and the common right of election.

These fourteen capital burgesses seem to have been a body of this sort, for it is hard to believe that they could even have been aldermen of wards over which they exercised a separate jurisdiction as the MS. before us seems to imply. But no doubt they became to the exclusion of the other burgesses the sole assessors of the mayor not only in his ordinary court, but also in the court Baron which leased the lands of the commonalty; and by them and out of them alone the chief magistrate of the borough was chosen, who is called mayor instead of portreeve for the first time in the history of our borough in this fourteenth century MS. But if the inferior burgesses had for a time no voice in the election of their mayor, in this borough at least they have to a certain extent regained their ancient right: for when according to immemorial custom and royal Charter the burgesses meet together on the Monday after the Exaltation of the Holy Cross to choose their mayor, the inferior burgesses first nominate



and then the council proceeds to elect, and I am told that this nomination has hardly ever been disregarded, but at the same time it is provided by Charter that the nominee must be one of the fourteen capital burgesses. I am inclined therefore to think that here the ordinary burgesses of Axbridge never lost the right of giving that tumultuary vote, which was so long the recognized expression of the will of the people, but which has in this case become sobered down to an unromantic presentment which is carried upstairs to the council.

In the sixteenth century Axbridge received two great Charters—the one granted 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, made it a corporate town; the other of 41 Elizabeth, finally settled its government. The incorporation of a borough of ancient prescription, though an important era in its history, added nothing to its rights. The burghers had, before their incorporation, as full rights of jurisdiction, and of holding and transmitting property in common, as they had afterwards, either because they were united by a bond of tenure, all being freehold tenants of one lord, as we have seen to be the case here, or because they were amalgamated by what we may almost call a more artificial tie, because they all belonged to one great guild merchant, as in Southampton, Wallingford, and many other places. But incorporation gave a town these two great advantages. It established beyond dispute the rights which it already had by prescription, and though such a title was more honourable, still it was of course more difficult of proof than one which rested upon Charter. It also gave a town an existence recognized in law under some special denomination, such as the mayor and bailiffs, or, as in this town, the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses; and under this title the

borough could hold lands, and sue, and be sued, as a *corporate body*, endued with perpetual legal succession, and having representatives recognized by law. It made just the difference between an aggregate body and a corporate body.

The custom of incorporating existing communities or townships began I think about the middle of the fifteenth century, and received an immense impetus by the confiscation of the lands of religious houses. The king and his party were anxious to gain the approval of the middle class at this critical time, and to secure their favour, they made them to a certain extent sharers in their ill-gotten spoil. The towns received a very great increase to their estates and many became for the first time large land-owners. The property consecrated to religious uses and administered by religious bodies was handed over to secular communities. I leave to any one tolerably acquainted with the later history of our municipalities before the Reform Act, or even to any one who can form an opinion on the present administration of the old municipal Charities, to pronounce judgment on the wisdom, I will not say the righteousness, of such a policy. The incorporation of towns was a natural, almost a necessary, consequence of this great increase of their estates, because though it did not as we have seen enlarge their right of holding land, it gave them greater facilities for doing so. Axbridge was somewhat later than most towns in receiving its Charter of incorporation probably because it so long remained a Bishop's town. But in 1548, Edward VI, by the advice of the Duke of Somerset, with an insolent injustice, of which in this case the youth of the king must clear him, seized nearly all the temporalities of the see of Bath and Wells,

Axbridge among the rest, and left Bishop Barlow almost houseless and penniless. The town then returned to the crown and was incorporated early in the next reign by the Charter of 3 and 4 Philip and Mary, which we have before us. This Charter still recognizes the thirty-two burgesses, and it is curious to find that this limited number recorded in Domesday Book still remains in the Borough, so that the present burgesses of Axbridge are the actual successors, man for man, of the freehold tenants of the crown who dwelt here certainly more than eight hundred years ago ; their number has never been lessened, and they have never added to it by admitting others to the enjoyment of their rights. With these thirty-two burgesses the fourteen aldermen are thus mentioned—‘*de discretioribus et magis probrioribus*,’ from whom, and by whom alone, the mayor was to be chosen. This Charter also grants the town the right of holding the assize of bread and ale, but this like some other of its clauses, is simply confirmatory, for you will find a record of this assize being held by the town as far back as the reign of Henry IV.

This Charter was soon followed by another, granted 41 Elizabeth, which is that by which the borough is still governed. The most important clause in it is that which establishes the Common Council, which at last took the place of the fourteen principal men, so oddly called aldermen, of whom I have already spoken. Instead of them there was to be but one alderman, and eight capital burgesses, and these with the mayor form the Common Council, to whom pertains the right of electing the mayor and alderman and of supplying vacancies in their own number, though the inferior burgesses enjoy their ancient right of giving their collective vote at the election of

mayor. In this newly constituted body was vested the whole government of the borough, the keeping of the peace, and the management of the corporate property; and these large powers remain still as the borough was not affected by the Municipal Reform Act. This Charter also granted the right to elect a recorder, who sits with the mayor and alderman to enquire of all minor offences, and it confirms the exemption from serving on juries and from the jurisdiction of the county magistrates granted to the burgesses by King John.

The last Charter, which the town has received, is a Confirmation Charter of 21 James I, which also adds West Street to the bounds of the borough, and grants it two serjeants, and maces bearing the royal arms.

The Convocation Books of the borough, in the seventeenth century, contain some curious entries, two or three of which I will mention.

It had been the custom of the borough to pay the mayor £16 a year wages, in order that he might provide feasts for his fellow burgesses, but in time men began to consider this sum extravagant, and in 1666 the wages were brought down to £8, and a little later to £4 a year, which is the present sum paid, and which I fear is not enough to give the electors much of a dinner.

On the 6th April, 1666, we find an order made by the Common Council, forbidding any inhabitant from going to Bristol for fear of the plague, which seems to have lingered long in that city, and any one who disobeyed was to be shut up in his own house for one month, which was at once a punishment and a preventive against infection, although one would think barely wholesome, especially at such a critical time, for the sufferer.

The last entry which I shall notice, is the letter of the Council, dated November 29, 1684, addressed to some nobleman, whose name I cannot discover, which describes the consternation which they felt when they heard of the forced surrender of the borough Charters to the crown. This iniquitous proceeding was to secure the ascendancy of the Tory party throughout the kingdom, and was carried out by the Attorney-General, Sawyer, and the lawyers of the court faction. The Council of this town heard with dismay that all their highly prized franchises were to be laid at the feet of the king ; and they sent three of their fellow burgesses to Lord Fitzharding to ask his advice, but he was only able to confirm their fears, and they, like many a more powerful town, had no choice but to submit. I have not been able to find any entry which speaks of the restoration of their Charters, or any great *Inspeximus* Charter of King Charles ; but it is certain that the borough lost none of its franchises. The Common Council still retain the powers vested in them by the Charter of Queen Elizabeth ; they still look for the rights of their town to the mass of valuable documents which they have in their own possession, which they have so justly prized, and which they so kindly show to all who are interested in such matters.

In conclusion, I must again thank them for their kindness to this Society and to myself, and beg to assure them that I most heartily join in the prayer inscribed on the old window of their council chamber—

“ God that ’s Lord of all,  
Save the council of this hall.”

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# Early Historical Document

## AMONG THE MUNIMENTS OF THE TOWN OF

### Axbridge.

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BY WM. ARTHUR JONES, M.A.

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THE following extracts from the MS. referred to by Mr. Hunt (see paper, p. 6, pt. ii), are published in the Proceedings, through the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of Axbridge.

The MS. is on parchment, and consists of 14 closely written folios, 6 in. by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in., the last six of which are here given entire. The Chronicle opens with "In principio creavit deus celum et terram &c," and about the middle of the fourth page the following entries occur :

Anno Dxxvj Coronacio Arthuri regis qui regnavit annis xxvj de cuj' obitu vel sepultura certū non referunt historic.

Anno Dlxxxvj ab angl' dicitur anglia divisa per octo regna, idest, Canciam, Southsexiam, Westsexiam, Merciam, Estsexiā Estangliam, Durham, et Bernicia n.

Then follow the dates of the coronation and death of the Kings of England, the last entry being :

"Anno Mccclxxxix f'cio Idus octobr' apud Westm' coronacio illustris regis Henr' quarti."

From this it appears that the MS. belongs to the earlier

part of the 15th century, and was compiled before the death of Henry IV, A.D. 1413. The remaining portion of the MS. consists of entries such as the following :

Anno domini C xl. Invenio ymaginis crucifixi ad ostiū boriale in magno fluvio Thamisie per Luciū p'imū Regem anglie xpianū.

Anno Mccxxvi Idus April' combusta erat civitas London' ex maxi'a pte ex igne Gilberti Beket.

Anno M. cl. tā valida erat glacies qd Thamisia potuit p equestres ptransiri.

Anno Mcclviii apud Teuksbury quidm̃ judeus ꝑper diem Sabb'ti cecidit in latrinā nec pmsit se extrahi ꝑppt'r reverenciam sabb'ti. Ricardus de clara Comes Glov'nie non pmsit eum extrahi ppt' reverenciam sui sabb'ti et sic mortuus est.

Anno Mcccxvi magna lues a'i'aliū et hoīm maximaque inundacio ymbriū fuit ex qua pvenit tanta bladi caristia qd quarteriū tritici p q'draginta solid' vendebatur.

Anno Mccclxviii incepit mag' pestilencia London' circa festū sci Mich'is et duravit usq' ad f'm sti petri ad vincula px' sequens.

Anno Mccclxj. xviii Kalend' ꝑfebr' festo Sci Mauri abbatis accidit ventus vehemens et tēibilis per totam Angliam. Eodem anno fuit ij pestilencia in qua obūt vir nobil' et strenuus Henricus dux Lancastrie.

Anno Mccclxviii erat ij pestilencia in qua obūt dna Blanchia Lancastrie ducissa que in psenti Ecce'a honorifice jacet tumulata.

Immediately after this follows the account of the Hunting of King Edmund on the Mendip Hills, and the dissertation on the supposed origin of English Boroughs, which was published from another copy by Mr. Smirke, in the Archæological Journal, vol. xxiii, p. 224 : and also a copy of the Charter of King John, which, it will be observed, is left incomplete, though several pages of parchment had been duly prepared for the continuation of the manuscript.

TEMPORIBUS Adelstani, Edmundi, Edredi, Edgari et sancti Edwardi, alior'que Regum Anglie antiquor' gubernatio quidem regni hec fuit' videlicet qd per consilium sanctor' Dunstani et Alphegi alior'que spectabilium viror' ordinatum fuit ut fiere't burgagia, id est maneria sive mansiones regie, nam 'Borw' Anglice, latine sonat 'mansio' seu habitacio, unde in presenti foveas vulpium appellamus 'borwys,' que constructa fuerunt diversis in locis in qualibet regni parte prout regie mages-tati tempus et loci situs commodi' delectarent. Et eciam qd fierent Custodes in quolibet Burgo, qui tunc temporis vocabantur 'Wardemen,' idest 'Porterewys' Constabularii ceteriqu' officarii qui regio nomine ordinarent victualia : videlicet frumentum vinum et ordeum oves et boves ceteraqu' pecora campi et volucres celi piscesque marinos pro tempore quo Rex in Burgo prefixo moram cum suis trahere decretalet. Namque per regni consilium assignatum erat cuilibet Burgo tempus certum spaciumque temporis q'mdiu cum suis in hujusmodi demoraretur. Si vero contingeret illuc regem non adesse tunc omnia preordinata in foro predicti Burgi venundari deberent et pecunia inde recepta in fiscum regium per officarios predictos inferri liceret. Preterea per dictum consilium forent villagia per circuitum dict' Burg' adjacentia in quibus essent villani et nativi qui terram incolerent animaliaque nutrent et cetera que ad opus supradictum necessaria forent ad victum officiar' burgor' supradictor'. Vixit itaque Rex in illis diebus de propriis dominiis sive maneriis sicut ceteri domini modo faciunt. Et hoc omnino ne regnum inedia gravamine incurreret.

Interdum vero estivabant Reges circa fforestam de Minndep venandi gracia in qua tunc temporis fuerunt cervi non pauci ceterarumque ferarum genera diversa. Nam, ut legitur in vita Sancti Dunstani, Rex Edmundus qui Glastonie requiescit accessit venaturus ad fforestam supradictam, Burgo regio tunc apud Axebygge existente. Idem vero Rex triduo perantea beatum Dunstanum a curia sua cum magna indignatione ac sine honore abjecerat quo facto Rex in silvam venaturus ivit. Silva autem ipsa montem magne altitudinis occupat. Qui mons in summitate sui interruptus, ingens precipitium et horridum abissum spectantibus offert quod ab incolis *Cedderclyff* appellatur.



Cum ergo fugitantem cervū Rex hac et illac insequeretur, cervus ad preruptum montis hiatū perveniens introrsum ruit ac in partes discissus interiit. Insectantes canes par ruina involvit. Equus autem quem Rex sedebat ruptis habenis effrenis effectus obstinato cursu regem post bestias portat et ultimam sortem Regi pre se patens baratrum intentat. Ille trepidat et angustiat. Occurrit interim a'i'o ejus injuria Dunstano nuper illata. Ingemuit et se q'm citissime illam multiplici emendatione correcturum, solomodo imminem sibi mortem ejus meritis ad horam Deus avertat, Deo celeri mentis sponsione promittit. Cujus cordis preparacionem aur' Dei evestigio audiens illius misertus est. Equus namque illico substitit et Regem a periculo mortis liberatum valde magnificas Dno grates ex intimo cordis persolvere.

Inde ad hospicium, s' ad Burgum de Axebygge, Rex adunatis principibus suis rei que acciderat ordinem pandit et Dunstanum cum honore ac reverencia adduci precepit et eum postea fidelissimum amicum in omnibus habuit.

Et sic in Axebygge fuerunt xxxij burgences quibus concessum fuit a supradictis regibus jus venandi atque piscandi in omnibus locis warennis exceptis, videlicet a loco qui dicitur Kotellisasch usque ad petram que vocatur le Blacston in mari occidentali. Et de predictis xxxij burgencibus fuerunt xiiij seniores principales qui tunc vocabantur Sokmanni s. 'Wardemen' sive 'Aldermannii,' ex quibus omni anno ipsimet eligerent unum 'porte-reve,' qui modo per statutum regium 'Major' vocatur et j ballivum et ij constabularios ceterosque officarios qui in gubernatione illius Burgi forent necesarios ut veniente regio Senescallo in festo videlicet Sancti Michaelis facerent coram eodem fidelitatem Regi et regno de hujusmodi gubernacione et de pace servanda; et sic villa de Axebygge cum manerio de Ceddir fuit pprium dominium Regis.

Et nota quod hec duo Maneria, videlicet Somerton et Ceddir, cum appendiciis suis reddebant firmam unius noctis tempore Sancti Edwardi Regis et Willielmi conquestoris prout patet in libro qui dicitur Domysday, folio scdo, ubi agitur de Comitatu Somersete sub titulo Terre Regis in libro supradicto ubi continet' sic:—"Rex tenet Ceddir. Rex Edwardus tenuit. numqm' gildavit nec

scitur quot hide sunt ibi. Terra est viginti car' In dominio sunt tres car' et duo servi et unus colibertus et xvij villani et xx Bord' cum vij car' et vij gablatores redd' xvij solid'. In Alsebruge triginta et duo burgences redd' xx solid' ibi duo Molini red' xij solid' et vj denar' et iij piscarie redd' x solid' et xv acre prati, pastura j leu' longitudine et tantundem lat' redd, per annū xxj lib' et ij denar' et obulum de xx mora silva ij leu' longitudine et dimid' latitudine. De hoc Manerio ten' Gyso Epc' unū membrum Wetimore, quod ipse tenuit de Rege E. pro eo computat Willms Vicecomes in firma Regis, xij lib unoquoque anno. De ipso Manerio est ablata dimid' virgat' terre que fuit de dominico firma Regis E. Robertus de Otburguile ten' et xv denar' val. Hec duo Maneria Som'ton et Ceddar cum apendiciis suis reddebant firmam unius noctis tempore Regis Sancti Edwardi.

Et sic Willms Rex et omnes successores sui Reges habuerunt dictam villam de Axebryg' cum manerio de Ceddar in proprio dominio usque ad annum quintum Regis Johannis, quo anno idem Johannes Rex concessit dictum Manerium de Ceddar cum villa de Axebrygg' et hundredis de Wyntestoke et Ceddar Hugoni Archid' Wellensi pro xx lib ad t'rminos Michaelis et Pasche, ut patet per cartam sequentem.

JOHANNES dei gracia &c. Sciatis nos dedisse et p'senti carta confirmasse dil'c'o n'ro Hugoni de Well Archid' de Well Maneria de Ceddar et Axebrygg' cum Hundredis de Wintestok et de Ceddar et cum omib' suis, Habenda et tenenda ad feodifirmam sibi et hered' suis vel illis quibus concesserit in hereditatem de nob' et heredibus n'ris inppetuū respondendo inde ad Scacc' n'rm per annū de viginti libr' nu'o' pro omi servicio et demanda videlicet ad scacc' sti Mich'is de decem libr' n'u'o et ad Scacc' Pasch' de decem libr' n'u'o unde solebat respondi ad scacc' per vic' in corpore Co'm Soms' de xvj. li. Blanc' per annū. Quia volumus et firmiter precipimus qd' predictus Hugo et heredes sui vel illi quibus ea concesserit in hereditatem habeant et teneant inppetuū ad feodifirmam predicta maneria cum predictis hundredis et mercato de Axebrygg' et omnibus aliis pertin' suis libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus in t'ris hominibus redditibus homag' revelevūs

escaetis custodiis maritag' et omnibus exitibus in Bosco et plano vūs et semitis pratis et pasturis apris marisc' aquis et molendinis vinarūs et stagnis piscariis et pumagiis et in omnibus rebus et locis cum Soc & Sac & Toll et Theam et Infangthef et utfangenthes et cum quietancia de passaug' pontag' Stallag' Tailliag' lestag' et Theloneo. Volum' eciam et concedimus qd predictus Hugo et heredes sui vel illi quibus predicta maneria concess'it et homines pdictor' manerior' numqm̃ ponantur in recogniciones vel juratas faciendas et qd tam pred'c'a maneria et pred'c'a hundreda qm̃ omnes homines in eis manentes sint quiet' inppetū de Sectis Coñ et de Sectis Hundredor' ad vic' pertinentibus. Et de Auxiliis vic' et Ballivor' suor' Et precipim' et volum' qd nullus vic' vel minister ej' se numqm̃ intromittat de eis vel ad maneria illa vel ad hundr' pred'ta vel ad homines in eis manentes manūmittat in aliquo. Et qd sint quieti inppet' de pecunia pro murthero danda. Cum autem placita corone ibidm̃ adven'it per Coronarios Com't Som'set et Ballivos predictor' manerior' et hundredor' attachientur. Et cum aliqui prisiones capti fuerint in maneris et hundredis illis quor' Justic' sp'aliter ad coronā nr̃am pertineat, liberentur Vic' Som'set vel ministris suis ad eos tenendos et custodiendos quamdiu in prisa esse debuerent. Et precipim' super forisfacturam nr̃am qd vic' vel minister ej' qūcumq' eis oblatis fuerint eos sine dilacione et om̃i excusacione recipiant et custodiant. Pecunia itaque siqua forte nobis debet' in pred'tis maneris et hundredis per manū Ballivor' predictor' manerior' et hundred' colligi volum' et Vic' Som'set. . . . .

NOTE.—The foregoing extracts have been given, as far as possible, literally from the MS., and no attempt has been made to alter or correct the obvious errors which occur in the original.

# Clifton Camps.

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BY MR. G. M. ATKINSON.

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THERE are three British stations on the Avon, one at Clifton, and two on the Somersetshire side opposite, called Bower Walls, and Stokeleigh.

That on Clifton Hill is placed on the highest point of St. Vincent's Rock, which rises nearly perpendicular 285 feet over the river at high water. It consists of a plot of ground on the very top of the hill, now covered with turf, and containing between three and four acres. It is surrounded by two ditches, which form three aggers, or ramparts. The inner rampart is 293 yards in circuit.

It rises about three or four feet above the level of the area, probably there was once a wall upon it. When the turf is removed, a quantity of lime or soft loose mortar is seen among the stones, and traced to the depth of two or three feet, and a slight layer of charcoal is found under this mortar in some places.

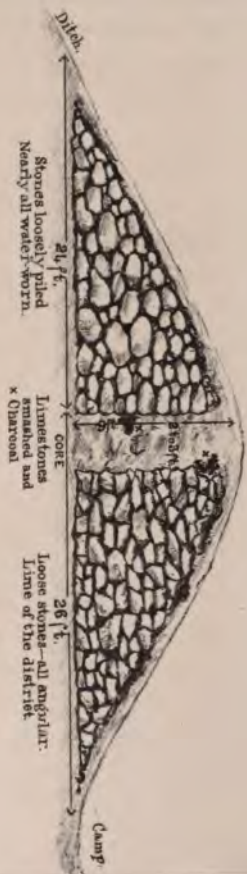
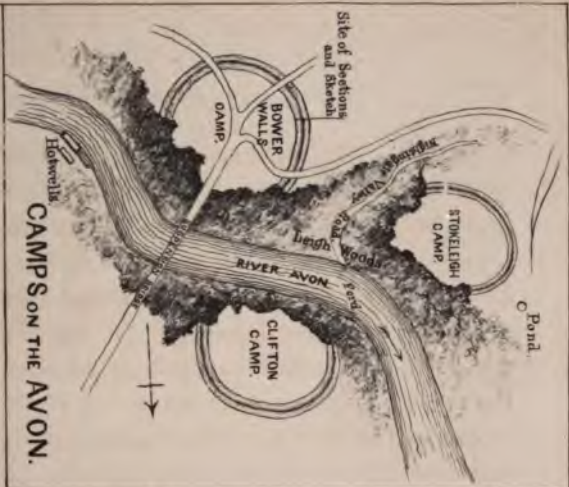
The ramparts are formed in most places by digging out the natural rock and finishing with earth, or loose stones. The entrance is on the north-eastern side. In the western corner is an inclosure, about 40 yards square, from this corner, a foot-way slopes down towards the river with a regular descent, and in this place at low water, during

spring tides, the river may be easily forded. The remains of an artificial ford founded on a natural ledge of rock, is here intended to form a communication between the camps on each side of the river. On quitting the river there may be seen a piece of hard road leading up the valley, now called the Nightingale Valley. On following up this valley, the other two camps are situated on the very summit of the precipices, one on the right, and the other on the left hand. The easternmost, that nearest to Bristol, is called Bower Walls. It is bounded to the east by a precipice, which renders all artificial defence unnecessary, and measures about 270 yards. The northern point appears about a quarter of a mile from the nearest point of Clifton Camp, in a straight line across the river. On a still day a man may speak across. It is about the same distance across the valley to the nearest point of Stokeleigh Camp. On the north-west side this camp is bounded by another valley, about 155 yards long.

These precipices are connected by three ramparts, enclosing an oval space, now overgrown with forest trees, and containing about seven acres. The highest rampart was about 18 feet above the area inside. It is in the parish of Ashton. The suspension bridge cuts into it at Clifton. Bower Walls is synonymous with "Borough Walls," derived from Saxon "Burgh," and proves that the memory of habitation there had reached Saxon times.\*

The western is called Stokeleigh Camp, it measures 280 feet, and is calculated to contain about eight acres. The north side rests on the precipice. The top of the rampart is from 10 to 14 feet high above the area, and from 25 to 30 above the bottom of the ditch, and overgrown with forest trees. Beyond this ditch is another, 12

\* See the plan of river Avon, and three camps.



SECTIONS—BOWER WALLS CAMP.





feet deep, and 36 wide ; and also a third. These ramparts and ditches gradually sink into the declivities on each side. There are evidences of buildings by the mounds, stations for signals perhaps, as it commands an extensive prospect. Within the area, near the north-western entrance, is a subsidence of the ground, perhaps the mouth of a well. Somewhere in this camp (Barrett's *His.* p. 20), was once found a stone with a hole in the middle, probably a hand-mill. Of the three camps, Clifton is unquestionably the parent of Bristol, the Caerodor, and by the Roman coins found down the hill can be traced the expansion of the settlers. It is strange to find a return to the old spot now taking place.

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## Borough Walls.

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*Abstract of description given by the Rev. Prebendary SCARTH,  
of the construction of the Ramparts, with general observations  
on the methods of forming them.*

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THE Ramparts of the camp on the river Avon, called Borough Walls, have lately been destroyed for the purpose of building villas.

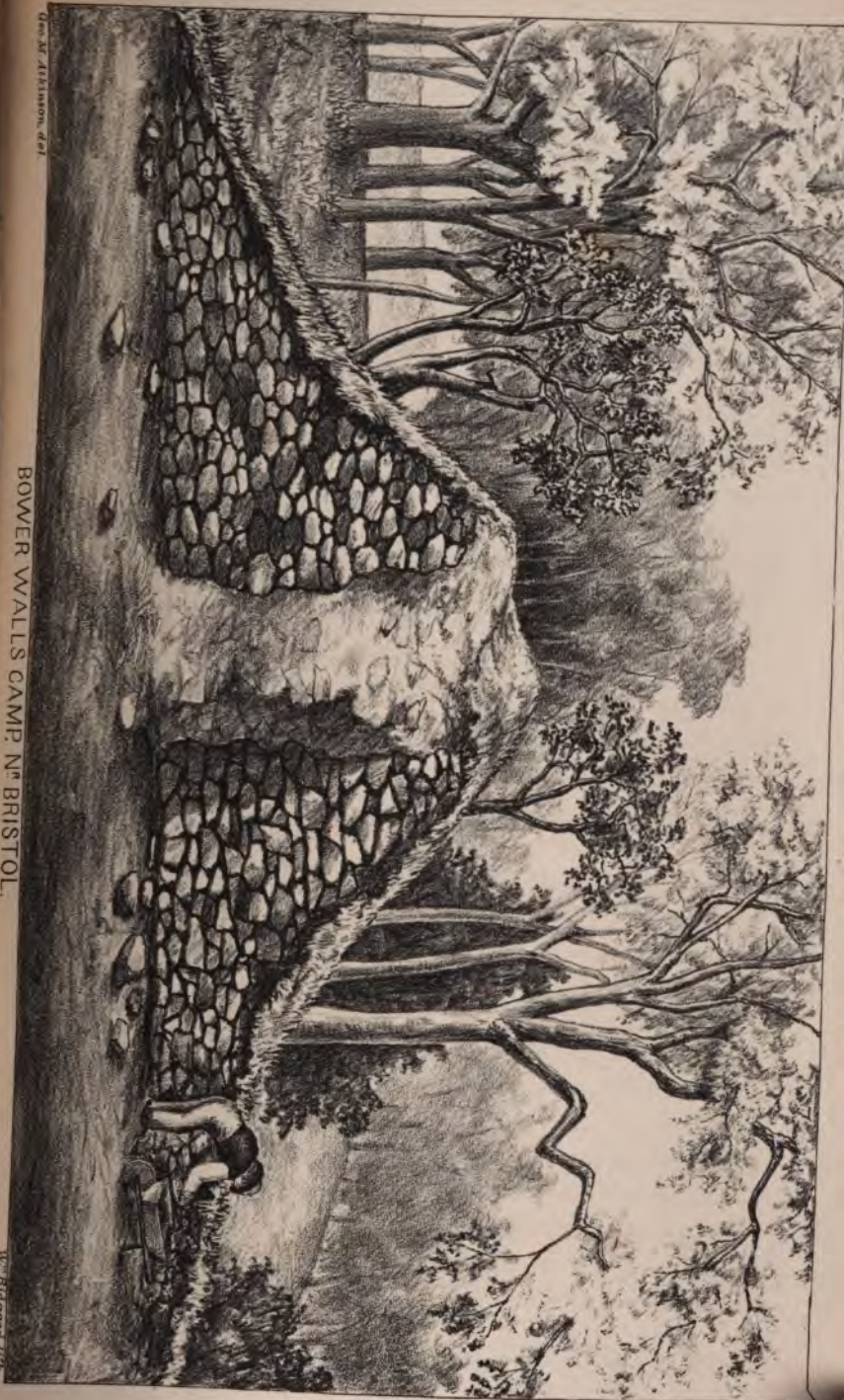
The innermost and highest of the three Ramparts which parted the camp on the western side, is formed of a compact mass of concrete, and when cut through, showed a core of solid lime, and burned wood, banked up on each side with stones, and coated with turf. When the work was examined as the process of removal continued, it was evident that large fires had been kindled at intervals of from 9 to 15 feet apart, and covered with lime-stone which was calcined, and that wood and stones had been burned together in the centre of the wall, while the sides were banked up with stone and earth. This had become solid by the infiltration of rain water, and so formed a solid core.

Mr. Scarth then went on to describe the construction of the Ramparts of the other two camps. That on Clifton Down, as far as could be ascertained at present, appeared to have been similarly constructed to that at Borough Walls. The Rampart of Stokeleigh Camp was quite perfect, and did not shew any appearance of lime having been used in

Gen. M. Atkinson del.

BOVER WALLS CAMP. N<sup>o</sup> BRISTOL.

W. Briggs sculp.



# Note on the existence of a French Colony in the Mendips.

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BY MR. GEORGE SMITH, SURGEON, AXBRIDGE

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I HAVE often been struck with the marked peculiarities of some of the individuals I have, from time to time, met with on the Mendip Hills. There is, in some of them, a mobility of frame and gracefulness of action, coupled with a softness and refinement of manner, which at once arrests attention, and forces the conviction on the mind that they must be of French extraction, and such on enquiry appears to be the case; indeed it would seem from the following details copied, the first from a monument in the Church of Hinton Blewitt, and the second from one in that of Axbridge, that such is the case :—

## IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Lewis Thiery, who was born in France, and being persecuted, for true religion came over to this free and happy kingdom about the year of our Lord 1650, and was buried under this stone about the year 1680. He had by his wife, Grace, five sons and one daughter, who were, most of them, buried near this place. Bevis Thiery, hosier, one of the sons of the above Lewis and Grace,

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died at Coley, and was interred here, 23rd April, 1746, aged 82 years. He had by his wife Mary three sons, Richard, Lewis, and Bevis; and five daughters, Grace, Hannah, Dorothea, Mary, and Betty, who all lived to be married, and left a numerous offspring.

Dorothea, who was the last of that line, died at Lytton, and was buried here the 24th of November, 1788, aged 88 years. She lived to see sixty-four great grand children, forty-four of whom are now living, and by her particular request eight of her grandsons carried her to her grave.

The above family, though not all of them possessed of abundant riches, lived well by honest industry; respected by their superiors and equals, and beloved by all men.

READER,

Let their bright examples provoke thy imitation.

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Near this place, in hopes of a blessed resurrection, lyes the remains of the late Rev. Elias Rebothier, who was rector of this parish (Axbridge) forty-five years. Dyed 19th December, 1765, aged 88 years. He was born at St. John De Gardonnengue in the Cevannes, in the province of Langudock, and at the great persecution of Protestants in France fled from that place and left his family, fortune and friends to seek after the most pure religion of the Church of England. He followed his studies for some time in Geneva, Holland, and Germany, and after enduring many hardships and vicissitudes of fortune he came to England, where he was, by that great and good prelate, George Hooper, Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, taken into his palace as chaplain, and promoted to many favours in the Church by his Lordship.

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Though nearly two hundred years have elapsed since

these men took up their abode in this country, and although the marriages have been exclusively English, there are still evident tokens of the peculiarities of their race amongst them. Many of the surnames are no doubt lost, still the Thierrys and Maugres are represented by Thiery and Moger of the present day ; and the prefix of Lewis (Louis) is not uncommon. Moreover the Thierys and their descendants are taken from Charter House to Hinton Blewitt for interment to the present day.

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# Geology of the Mendips.

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BY CHARLES MOORE, F.G.S.

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ONE of the advantages connected with Geological investigation to him who pursues the science arises from the fact that, in whatever part of the world he may be placed, there is certain to be open to him many points of interest, either physical or otherwise, upon which the imagination may be exercised. Whether he be investigating the extended plains of our alluvial or tertiary deposits, or the table lands of the chalk or oolite, or the low levels occupied by the liassic deposits, or his look-out be from one of the glorious peaks of the carboniferous limestone or the old red sandstone of the Mendip Hills, many questions crowd upon him, and he has to endeavour to realise, as far as possible, amongst other points, the physical history of the district at its several epochs; the relative ages of the beds, and their connection with one another; the evidences they may present of unconformability and disturbance; what mineral wealth they contain, and also the palæontological treasures the deposits may severally yield on a patient investigation of their contents.

I believe there is no county in England which is privileged to possess so much Geological variety as the county of Somerset, and resulting chiefly from this, I am certain

there is not one, which presents so great an amount of palæontological interest. On both these points the Axbridge district, in which this year the society assembles, will afford ample illustrations. Before noticing these more in detail, let me mention the different geological formations found within the borders of the county, some of which are in no part of the world to be studied under more favourable conditions—Alluvial deposits, recent marine beds, post glacial drifts and clays, chalk, chalk marl, upper green sand, gault (?), lower green sand, Kimmeridge clay, coral rag, Oxford clay, cornbrash, forest marble, great oolite, fullers' earth, inferior oolite, upper lias, middle lias, lower lias, the Rhætic beds, new red sandstone, dolomitic conglomerate, coal measures, millstone grit, carboniferous limestone, Devonian beds, old red sandstone, eruptive basalts. This lengthened list of geological formations, therefore, shows, what I doubt cannot be said for any other county, that in Somerset, with the exception of the tertiary beds, the Wealden, the Portland oolite, and the Silurian strata, and those following, every Geological horizon is represented in it.

The great geological feature not only of the district in which the society meets, but also of the county of Somerset, centres in the fine range of the Mendip Hills, which are chiefly composed of the old red sandstone, and the carboniferous limestone, whose physical elevation has tended in a very considerable degree to influence and modify many of the younger stratified deposits by which they are seen to be surrounded. The Mendips commence on the east near Frome, where in this direction they pass under and are covered up by secondary rocks, and from thence continue through the centre of the county for a distance of 35 miles, forming the boundary on the south, of the

Somersetshire coal field. They have on their southern escarpments the towns of Shepton-Mallet, Wells, Cheddar, Axbridge, and Weston-super-Mare. From the latter point the beds of which they are composed cross the channel, and are found skirting the South Wales coal field, their western extension being near the town of Bridgend. The old red sandstone is the oldest member of the Mendip range, and makes its appearance near Frome in a narrow belt at Oldford, with an equally narrow strip of carboniferous limestone resting against it, both formations at this place being very much disturbed and contorted. The old red sandstone has then its greatest superficial development to the north of Cranmore and Shepton Mallet, where it is continuous for several miles, it having been brought up through the carboniferous limestone, by which it is bounded both to the north and south, the whole of the rocks forming an anticlinal, the beds of which dip in either direction at a very considerable angle. The old red is then found at Pen Hill, and North Hill, near Priddy, beyond which it is covered up by a large superficial development of carboniferous limestone, which separates the formation from the Black Down Hills above Axbridge, the most westerly point the old red sandstone reaches in this district. The carboniferous limestones are continuous throughout the range, resting sometimes vertically, and always at high inclinations upon the sides of the equally inclined old red beds, having their greatest breadth of six miles north of Wookey, or from Rodney Stoke towards Blagdon, including in their area Stoke Warren, Priddy, Charter House, and Ubley. To the west the limestones continue in two spurs, embracing the old red of the Black Down Hills, the one to the north passing by way of Burrington, Sandford, and Banwell, that to the south including



the Cheddar Cliffs, Shutshelve Hill above Axbridge, and Wavering Down above Compton, Crook's Peak at this point yielding one of the most interesting panoramic views that can be imagined, and from which the greater part of the physical geology of the county may be gathered. Beyond this may be seen the isolated outcrops of the carboniferous limestones of the Bleadon and Worle Hills, with Brean Down and the Steep, and Flat Holmes in mid-channel. The older rocks of which I have been speaking form the boundary within the borders of which, so far as we at present know, the coal measures are confined. The outlines of the Somersetshire and Gloucestershire carboniferous series by the outcrops of the carboniferous limestone are on the whole very well defined. Even on its eastern border, where only any doubt can exist, and where the carboniferous limestones are generally covered up by later deposits, its area may still be traced, as it is known that the carboniferous limestone occurs under the secondary beds at Batheaston, and at the surface over very small areas at Grammar rocks near Bath, and at Wick and Codrington in Gloucestershire, Cromhall being their northern extremity, whilst the grand escarpments of the Mendips form their southern boundary. It is true that whilst we have the carboniferous limestones of this range dipping rapidly to the south, on its eastern side passing under the oolite and lias, in the Axbridge and Cheddar districts they apparently pass under the moor lands towards Bridgwater and Cannington, near that town, where there is a small outcrop of limestone, which until lately was supposed to belong to the carboniferous series, in which case it would indicate the continuation of these beds in that direction ; but it has lately been suggested by Mr. Etheridge, though with some doubt, that the Cannington limestone is of Devonian age.

The question of the continuance of the coal measures south of the Mendips is one surrounded by very considerable difficulty. Under any circumstances, though I should not be sanguine of success and should rather incline to the opinion that workable coal would not be found in that direction, I think the time has come when the Somersetshire landed proprietors should combine and provide a fund, which with the improved means now attained for boring operations need not be a very large one, in order to settle a point which, if successful, would not only be of great importance to themselves but to the country generally. I shall presently point out some of the difficulties they would have to meet, but they chiefly resolve themselves into a question of cost, and nothing would give me greater pleasure, as soon as they are ready, than to offer them any assistance I can render as hon. consulting engineer, keeping them informed of their prospects as their mining operations proceed. The coal measures which overlies the carboniferous limestone are in the Somersetshire basin calculated at the enormous thickness of 12,000 feet. In a paper I have lately published on "the Abnormal Conditions of the secondary deposits when connected with the Somersetshire and South Wales Coal Basins," I have suggested that it was probable the carboniferous limestone, which is now seen to surround our coal fields, formed the edges of an attol-like basin, within which the vegetation flourished from which the coal has been derived. It is certain that with our carboniferous deposits there have been many mixed, or rather alternating physical conditions of the area within which they are found, which have not yet been satisfactorily worked out. Take for example one of the coal beds on the north of the Mendips. There are there found on a single horizon of only a few feet or inches in

thickness, indications of a land area, from the vegetation of which it has been probably formed ; this may be succeeded by shales or other deposits of greater or less thickness, in which there may be traces of either marine or brackish water organic remains. The land again emerges from the water and is once more clothed with vegetation, and, with the same physical conditions repeated from time to time, still higher coal beds are deposited, each in its turn being covered up by interposed shales or other deposits which have been brought into the area by the continued depression of the district in which they have been accumulated. No doubt some of the beds were deposited more or less rapidly, though this could not be the case with the coal itself. It has been calculated that the vegetation necessary to the formation of one yard of coal would, even in the tropics, take a thousand years in its growth. If this calculation be anything like correct, we shall require thousands of years for the formation of the true coal beds alone, which in the Somersetshire coal field are about twenty-four feet in thickness, and if so, what date are we to assign to the intercalated shales and rocks of which the carboniferous series a few miles on the north side of the Mendips is in great part composed ? In illustration of the period that might be occupied in the formation of some of the coal series, I may mention an incident which has just occurred to myself. Lately I found several minute seeds of a coniferous plant named *Flemingites gracilis*, in a lead mine in Yorkshire, next I found it in the carboniferous series in Staffordshire, and lately, when visiting the Radstock coal works, I discovered a bed of shale almost entirely composed of this little seed alone. Although as I have above indicated there must have been a continued depression of the area within which the coal measures

were being deposited, the fact that the same thin veins of coal are generally to be traced over the whole coal field is sufficient to show that there were uniform periods of rest within which the same conditions everywhere prevailed ; what those several physical conditions were, will still afford ample scope for the imagination of geologists.

But I want once more to return to the Mendip Hills, and to refer to some most interesting phenomena, which appear to have occurred after the close of the coal period. It must not be forgotten that the old red sandstone, the carboniferous limestone, and the coal beds within the basin were laid down horizontally, and that their present physical elevation has been due to subsequent uplifting by volcanic agency. Whatever doubt there might be of former changes there can be none regarding the cause of their elevation, the time it was effected, and the modifications that have been caused thereby, especially to Somersetshire geology. The rocks which form the Mendip Hills, and including the coal measures also which have been brought up by the same movement, cannot be estimated at less than 30,000 feet in thickness. Their length, from near Frome to Weston, where they cross the channel, to beyond Bridgend in South Wales, where the carboniferous limestone terminates, is about 72 miles. Meeting as we do at the foot of this mountain chain, and seeing, as we shall in our excursion, the magnificent Cheddar gorge, the Burrington Coombe, and the other ravines that have been caused by the elevation of this chain of hills, you may the more readily imagine the enormous forces exerted in early geological periods by such convulsions. Grand, indeed, as compared with their present appearance, must have been the ragged peaks of the rocks as they were first brought up from the ocean's depth, since which time through long

geological ages they have been modified by denudation and other causes. So great has been the power of denuding forces, especially to the east, that the dense limestone of the range, which must have gone up into peaks of considerable elevation, have been worn down quite horizontal, much of the material thus removed forming the conglomerates along the Mendip range and covering up the coal within the basin. The presence of the agent, by whose power this has been effected, is to be found in a basaltic dyke near Stoke Lane, under the Ridgeway and one of the most elevated portions of the Mendips. A north and south section there shews the protrusions of the volcanic matter, and that the old red sandstone and the carboniferous limestone have been brought up vertically by it, and as the convulsion was subsequent to the coal period those beds have been equally affected thereby. Nothing in geological history can be clearer than the time when the Mendip hills were up-lifted. The fact that no beds subsequent to the coal measures have been disturbed, and that all the secondary formations which repose on them on either side of the Mendips are horizontal, shew that the date of the volcanic movement is to be fixed at about the middle or latter part of the triassic era.

The uplifting of the Mendips, I have before remarked, has tended very much to modify the general geology of the district, and I know of no part of the world in which there are so many interesting physical phenomena to be studied. In my paper before referred to, and from which I am compelled to quote, I have suggested that, through the greater part of geological time since the coal measures the Mendips have presented an island barrier, which to a great extent has prevented the irruption of the secondary seas within the coal basin to the north, and I have given

comparative sections which I think clearly establish this fact. I have shown that whilst on the south of the Mendips there have been deep sea deposits, in which the secondary beds attain very considerable thickness, on the north they are often entirely wanting or have a very insignificant development which the following table will show :—

		Without coal basin		Within coal basin
Triassic beds	..	2,000	..	50
Rhætic beds	..	50	..	50
Lower lias	..	700	..	2
Middle and upper lias		500	..	42
Inferior oolite	..	170	..	25
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		3,420		169

This comparison, as showing the different physical conditions under which the beds on either side of the Mendips were deposited, is most instructive. The new red sandstone in a coal boring at Compton Dundon, was sunk into for 600 feet, whilst within the coal basin the dolomitic conglomerates and the "red ground" are often under 50 feet, and in a very curious section of the lower lias at Munger less than two feet represents this important formation, which sometimes numbers to the south many hundred separate beds. These facts will serve to show that in any attempts made to discover coal in the latter direction great care must be exercised in the selection of suitable spots for experiment. Another point of interest which I have only recognised along the flanks of the Mendips, and their continuation through South Wales, is that when the secondary rocks come in contact with those of earlier ages or lie in any small basins on their surface

they present all the conditions of an ancient coast line, and are so changed in their general character, that it would be difficult to recognize them as the equivalent of liassic or other beds, that were deposited under ordinary or more tranquil circumstances, in the deeper seas beyond. Thus towards Frome, and at Shepton Mallet, the Rhætic beds are composed of a dense conglomerate analogous to the pebbly coast line of our present shores, and occasionally contain an association of remains of several geological periods. Thus in one block I have a vertebra of *Plesiosaurus*, *Acrodus* teeth, *Avicula contorta*, of Rhætic age, and *Encrinites* of the age of the carboniferous limestone. The liassic beds also, where their edges meet the carboniferous limestone, are likewise conglomeratic, and the beds are lithologically different, presenting a white or crystalline aspect instead of the usually dense gray or blue appearance under which they are otherwise found. At Harptree these beds are very siliceous, and, but for their fossils, would be difficult to recognise as belonging to the liassic series. These facts I think assist in the conclusion that the Mendip range was at the time of the deposition of the secondary beds an island barrier, producing abnormal conditions of deposition when the latter beds came within its influence. Before I leave this part of the subject I must refer to another most interesting point, which is not only intimately connected with the Mendips but is also a new feature in Geological phenomena. I allude to the age and mode of the mineral deposits in its area. There can be no doubt that the carboniferous limestones which form an anticlinal from their original line of elevation, dip more or less rapidly to the south under the secondary rocks. Over a large surface of the sea bottom they formed the floor of the ancient ocean to the south when the Rhætic and liassic

beds were being deposited, and we have the curious fact that in consequence of some physical disturbance they then became fissured and received within their walls not only the organic remains that were then living, but also various minerals of the same period, with which in the veins they are now to be found associated. In consequence of this, whenever a vein of whatever breadth is met with in the carboniferous limestone of the Mendips, it may fairly be inferred that the vein is either of Rhætic or liassic age, which is often to be clearly established by the presence of remains of those periods. A complete network of veins and fissures in this way occupies the whole line of the Mendip Hills, some of which, of considerable breadth, are to be traced for some distance. In one open section at Holwell fifteen of these are present, nearly one-third of what was supposed to be carboniferous limestone belonging to the younger age. A good example again occurs in a wide vein at Gurney Slade, where in a quarry of carboniferous limestone the vein infilling has been left standing up like a wall with liassic shells in its matrix, shewing the hematite iron ore there seen to be also contemporaneous. Other examples might be mentioned, but I shall only refer to the one of greatest interest which happens to be at Charter House, within a few miles of where we are assembled, and which will be visited in one of the excursions.

On the carboniferous limestone table land at this place a shaft has been sunk for the discovery of lead ore, and I was surprised to find at its mouth blue clay and conglomerates containing organic remains of the age of the lower lias, a formation not to be found within some miles of the spot. This came from the bottom of the mine at a depth of 270 feet. It affords another remarkable illustration of the liassic seas having occupied the fissures of



older formations, and from the fact that this liassic infilling is found either below or associated with the minerals in the vein, it proves conclusively that the latter are of liassic age. Mixed with a few species of organic remains from the carboniferous limestone, not less than eighty five species of the age of the lias were obtained, some of these being of the highest palæontological interest. The genera *Helix*, *Proserpina* and *Vertigo* thus found are with one exception the oldest land shells, and *Valvata*, *Hydrobia* and *Planorbis* the oldest freshwater genera ever discovered.

Before leaving the subject of minerals I should remark that in what are mapped as dolomitic conglomerates to the north of Axbridge, at Rowberrow, and Shipham, large quantities of calamine were formerly extracted, and hematite iron ores occur at Wrington and other localities. These conglomerates usually fill up basins in the limestone or rest against their sides, but owing to their not yielding any organic remains it is difficult to determine their exact age. It is not improbable they are younger than has been supposed, especially as it is seen that the other minerals of the district are of a later date.

Whilst within the coal basin to the north of the Mendips, as I have before intimated, there is an extraordinary thinning out of all the secondary deposits, on the south and south-west the beds above the coal, where they have been clearly deposited in deeper seas and beyond the modifying influences exercised by the Mendip range, assume their normal conditions and attain great thickness.

The triassic beds have not a large superficial development, from the fact that they are to a great extent covered by the lias or by the moorlands of the district. The upper beds of the new red sandstone can be best studied along the lines of the numerous escarpments by which the

moorlands are generally surrounded, especially to the north of Wedmore, on the south flanks of the Polden Hills, and around Somerton. In ascending from the upper beds of the new red sandstone, usually seen at the base of these escarpments, the Rhætic beds may generally be detected, their upper horizon being bounded by the cream-coloured beds of what have been termed the "white lias," but which are now included in the Rhætic series. These beds in the south-west of England, as I have shown in my paper on the "Avicula contorta and Rhætic series," forming a most marked and persistent horizon between the lower lias and the new red sandstone. Probably in no part of the world are the beds of the lower lias more finely developed than in this direction. Instead of the altered conditions they present when they meet the outcrop of the older Mendip rocks against which they rest as they pass into the deeper ocean, the uniformity of their depositions is most remarkable. If a good typical section of lias be carefully studied it may be seen not only that the beds present certain lithological distinctions, and are of varying thickness, but that almost every bed has its peculiar assemblage of organic remains, and these conditions throughout the south-west of England are so persistent they are to be recognised in every liassic quarry over an area of hundreds of square miles. The horizon of the middle and upper lias are in this district best locally developed in the solitary island in the river near the Bridgewater of Brent Knoll, in the Tor Hill at Stantonbury, and in its continuation in the Pennant Hills, whilst the inferior series, but for a thin capping on the Tor Hill, would be scarcely represented. From this fact, as we have none of the secondary or higher tertiary deposits, the terminations recorded on the base of the great stone

book have been entirely obliterated in this district, and we come to the later pages of the world's most wonderful history. On it are recorded changes, which in the Mendip district, and for our own county have their special interest. I allude to the period of the post pliocene deposits, within which are included most of our superficial gravels, and the infillings of our limestone caverns, with the abundant remains of extinct mammalia they contain.

These bring us forward from the time when shoals of *Ichthyosauri* and *Plesiosauri* swarmed in the seas which washed the base of the Mendip Hills, to the remote but still more recent one when the liassic sea bottom had become dry land, and the cave lion, the rhinoceros, the hyæna, the elephant, the wolf, the musk sheep, and other extinct animals swarmed in the district, roaming through its tangled forests, and retreating to the caves of Banwell, Hutton, Loxton, and Wookey, and others not yet discovered, where their remains are now so abundantly found. There is little doubt that at this time the general physical contour of the country was very similar to the present. The Mendip range stood out as boldly as at this day, and the various islands of new red sandstone and lias in the low ground occupied the positions in which they are now found. So recently in geological time was this great change effected, it must have been within the period when the human race existed, for there can now be no doubt that man was contemporaneous with these extinct mammalia. It is also certain that many of the shells which are found associated with their remains have lived on to the present time; and yet within this comparatively short Geological period what revolutions must have occurred in this immediate district. Its climate has changed from a temperate to that of an arctic one, and has again returned to its

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former condition, and within this yesterday of geological time an arctic fauna existed and has passed away. An attempt has been made by an eminent mathematician to fix the date of the last great change, who has calculated two periods of great cold, in which we had arctic climates in this latitude, one of which he shews extended from 980,000 to 720,000 years ago, the other from about 240,000 to 80,000 years ago, and should his calculation be correct, we must carry back man's advent and that of the extinct mammalia, since which no great physical change has occurred in the Mendip district, to at least the lesser of the above periods. When I remark that the great physical outlines of the Mendips and the country beyond were in glacial and post-glacial times much what they are at present, it does not follow that there have not been since those periods influences at work which have to some extent been modifying and altering the condition of the district. It is impossible for instance to say how far the waters which now occupy the Bristol channel have encroached over the low levels ; possibly they reached nearly to the foot of the Mendips on the south-west, still more probable is it that they were not far removed from Glastonbury and the numerous escarpments of the new red sandstone and the lias in that direction. Certain is it that the waters of the ocean overspread the moors so far up as Burtle, Sutton, and Middlezoy, for at these places are to be found recent marine deposits containing organic remains still living in the channel, and but for the alluvial covering they have since received there is little doubt they might be recognized in many other localities. The last and most recent change in the district to be noticed is the great extent of the turf moors and rich alluvial lands to the south of the Mendips, and also on the west in the direction of Bridgwater and

Burnham. Since the recession of the ocean these low levels appear to have been receiving their accumulations of alluvial deposits by the drainage into them of materials brought down into the basin they occupy by the rivers Axe, Brue, and Parrett, the overflow of whose waters in early times, as occasionally at the present, probably converted a great part of the country into an inland lake. During this time the rhinoceros, the *bos longifrons*, the reindeer, and a few of the post-pliocene mammals still lingered. In the same deposits we find traces of the ancient Briton and of Roman occupation, and thus we insensibly graduate from the pre-historic into historic times—from the dim eras of the past into the present. My object has been rather to treat of the physical revolutions that have been in progress in the area in which we are assembled than to refer at any length to the still more interesting palæontological facts they have involved. The laws by which these changes have been effected in the past are as surely in operation at the present, and who can say in what bold relief, as compared with the past, the footprints we are now leaving in the sands of time may stand out to record our world's history in the future.

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# On the Rodentia of the Somerset Caves.

BY W. A. SANFORD, ESQ., F.G.S.

ALTHOUGH at first sight the addition of the knowledge of a few small animals in the fauna of a given period in a particular country may not be, in the opinion of many, of general interest, I hope to show that it really constitutes a fact bearing on the physical geography, and therefore on the history of the world, during what must, in the present state of our knowledge, be deemed an early portion of the history of our race ; and which therefore

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE.

- Fig. 1. *Arvicola ratticeps*. Upper jaw, lateral aspect.  
1 a. Dentition of the upper jaw, magnified six diameters.  
1 b. Lower jaw, external aspect.  
1 c. The same, internal aspect.  
1 d. Dentition of the lower jaw, magnified six diameters.  
2. *Arvicola Gulielmi*, n. s., lower jaw, external aspect.  
2 a. The same, internal aspect.  
2 b. Dentition of the same, magnified six diameters.  
3. *Lemmus norvegicus* (var.), lower jaw, external aspect.  
3 a. The same, internal aspect.  
3 b. Dentition of the same, magnified six diameters.  
4. *Lemmus torquatus* (var.), anterior part of the skull, lateral aspect.  
4 a. Dentition of the same, magnified six diameters.  
5. *Lepus diluvianus*, skull, natural size, lateral aspect.  
6. *Cricetus songarus*, anterior portion of skull, lateral aspect.  
6 a. Dentition of the above, magnified six diameters.  
6 b. Lower jaw, external aspect.  
6 c. The same, internal aspect.  
6 d. Dentition of the lower jaw, magnified six diameters.



equally belongs to both departments which occupy the attention of our society.

It has been long known that the mammoth is found in great abundance in Siberia, which country may indeed be considered the metropolis of the animal, as well as its last retreat. It is therefore of the highest importance for us to know, while investigating the climate of its existence, what animals were co-existent with it in other countries as well as in Siberia itself.

Our knowledge in this respect in Siberia is singularly defective, but it is hoped that energetic naturalists like Brandt may devote themselves to this study and carry on a series of observations parallel to those which are now being worked out by many observers in this country, Germany, and France.

The observations I am about to make are confined to one order, the Rodentia, comprising such animals as hares, rats, squirrels, voles, and the like, and the information they afford is singularly important.

Naturalists have hitherto reckoned three species of hare as post-glacial forms ; the common hare, the Irish hare, and the rabbit ; besides a closely allied animal, the pika or tailless hare of Siberia. I believe all these to be of great rarity in the cave deposits ; I have never seen but one, or at most, two specimens of the rabbit, which I could in any way consider as fossil, and even with respect to these I have considerable doubt. It is now well known that bones in contact with particular earths and rocks rapidly acquire the condition of ordinary cave bones, and when the burrowing habits of the animal and its highly southern distribution are considered, as well as its probable non-existence during the early historical period in Europe, we may well doubt whether the rabbit really co-existed with the mam-

moth in this country. Bones greatly resembling those of the common hare are also extremely rare, their size is such as to render them conspicuous fossils; and in my recent report to the British Association, I have mentioned that in the earlier deposits in Kent's Hole they are of extreme rarity, whereas in these deposits are animals I am about to mention, which evidently represent this species. With regard to the Irish hare, I have seen but half a lower jaw which I can with some confidence ascribe to this species, this is from Hutton cave. But I have found the bones of a hare which must have been one of the most abundant animals of the period; its presence is universal in all the caves which contain any of the extinct mammoth fauna. It was much larger and more powerful than any wild hare with which I have been able to compare it—the skull pretty equal in size to that of the largest lop-eared tame rabbit I have seen. It is also distinguished by some slight but very constant anatomical peculiarity; it is closely related to the black hare of the Altai mountains, but is nearly double the size of that animal. I believe it to be extinct as a species, and to be that which the French naturalists have described under the name of *Lepus diluvianus*. I have recognised its bones as very rarely occurring in the upper black bed of Kent's Hole, which contains abundant remains of domestic animals and of man. It therefore became extinct in this county during the period of domestic animals, at the same time the common hare became abundant; so that as I said before, we have evident proof of the replacement of one closely allied species by another, and some intermediate specimens give us some reason to suspect that we have here an instance, not only of replacement, but also of transition.

With regard to the many species of *Leporina*, the cave

pika—I can only repeat Professor Owen's observation—which the more abundant materials we now have enable me to confirm, that the cave tailless hare, which was little larger than a mouse, was most closely related to, but possibly not absolutely identical with, the *Lagomys pusillus* of Siberia. A jaw from Kent's Hole more closely resembles this Siberian animal than either of the Hutton specimens at Taunton. On the whole I am inclined to consider it a local variety rather than a distinct species. It will be however convenient to retain Professor Owen's specific name *Lagomys spelæus*.

The next division of Rodentia are the voles, best known to non-naturalists by our common water rat, which appears to have been abundant in the caves. There are three other species, or sub-species, which inhabit Europe—to which of these our animal belongs may be doubtful, as we have no entire skulls, by which alone they can be discriminated.

Our common short-tailed field mouse is also represented with a singular variation, the anterior portion of the lower jaw is invariably longer and straighter than that of our own little animal. This approximates it to a Siberian and North European form—*Arvicola ratticeps*. We have here also a trace of a transition of species.

This *A. ratticeps* I have also found in the Hutton collection. It has not hitherto been described as fossil, but it does not appear to have been a rare animal, it is larger than our short-tailed field mouse, and the teeth differ constantly but not to any great degree. It may be easily recognised by the figure in the plate which accompanies this paper. I have found this animal also in Kent's Hole.

The other British species—the little bank vole—is also represented in the Hutton collection by a single lower jaw. It is rare, but from its small size it has probably been overlooked.

But I have found five jaws in the Hutton collection, and one or two in Kent's Hole, of a fifth species which I believe to be undescribed. Among the European species there is a very small animal having very complicated teeth—*Arvicola subterraneus*. This is represented in our cave deposits by an animal which must have been nearly as large as our water rat, and therefore of comparatively gigantic size. It resembles nothing with which I have been able to compare it either in size, or figure of the jaw. I give figures of the lower jaw, no other part of the animal having occurred. I call it *Arvicola Gulielmi* after Mr. Williams, to whom we owe the collection of the specimens on which the species is founded. I have met with no notice of the discoveries of the Norway or migratory lemming as a fossil, but in the Hutton collection several upper and lower jaws occur which are indistinguishable from that species. A smaller lemming closely allied to, but possibly not identical with, the White Sea *Lemmus torquatus* has occurred at Fisherton near Salisbury, in company with the mammoth, and has been described by Dr. Blackmore.

Dr. Falconer has described the jaws of a ground squirrel, closely resembling a Siberian species, which he has named *Spermophilus erythrogonoides*. The original specimen figured by him is in our collection ; a second was erroneously named by a former curator *Spermophilus citellus*, and the mistake was transferred to the catalogue of Pleistocene fossils published by Mr. Dawkins and myself in the preface to our monographs on *Felis spelæa*, and a third has since been discovered in a box of fossils which belonged to Mr. Williams. We have reason to believe that these fossils are from Hutton.

The last animal that I shall mention belongs not only to

a species, but also to a genus, which has not hitherto been recognised as a fossil in Great Britain, namely, the hamster. But the size of our specimens is much smaller than of the animal now found in central and western Europe. It closely agrees in every respect with *Cricetus songarus*, a minute representative of the genus which now inhabits Western Siberia.

We have therefore, extinct animals—*Lepus diluvianus*, *Lagomys spelæus*, *Arvicola Gulielmi*, *Spermophilus erythrogenoides* : animals now found in Norway, Russia, and Western Siberia, and not in England—*Arvicola ratticeps*, *Lemmus Norvegicus*, *Cricetus songarus* : animals still living in Great Britain—*Lepus timidus* (very rare), *Lepus Hibernicus* (very rare), *Lepus cuniculus* (very doubtful), *Arvicola amphibius* (common), *Arvicola agrestis*, *Arvicola glareolus* = *pratensis* (rare.)

Putting aside therefore, the common hare, and Irish hare, as too rare, and of too doubtful occurrence in their deposit to afford any certain indication of climate, and the rabbit, of which I very much doubt the co-existence with the mammoth, we have only three species of rodents which appear to be identical with those now living in Great Britain—the water rat, the short-tailed field mouse, and the bank vole ; the second shews an evident variation in the direction of a more northern and eastern form. With regard to the rest, the three species which I had recently described for the first time as fossil are all Siberian or North European forms and of the four extinct, or quasi extinct species, three are most closely allied to, though in size and some other slight particulars differing from, Siberian forms. All these are found in the Hutton and in Kent's Hole caves, where the mammoth is the only species of elephant, but as far as we know they are absent

from those deposits in which the *Elephas antiquus* has been discovered.

We can hardly then refuse our assent to the proposition that the climate of England at the period when the mammoth was the characteristic mammal, as far as these animals throw light upon it, resembled that of Eastern Europe and Siberia, that is, that it was extreme and continental, and the migratory habits of the Norway Lemming require an uninterrupted communication with a northern continent, so that in all probability the North Sea did not exist except as a strait or estuary between us and Norway. We also have in the cases of the larger and smaller hare, in *Lagomys spelæus* and *pusillus*, in *Arvicola ratticeps* and *agrestis*, in *Spermophilus erythrogenoides* and *erythrogenys* apparent traces of the transition of one of those forms which we call a species to another.

I may mention that no trace of the beaver has, as yet, occurred in the Somerset caves, though several specimens have been found in Kent's Hole, near Torquay, indicating species resembling both the *Castor faber* of Europe and *Castor Canadensis* of America.

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## Rules

**T**HIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II.—The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* Members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings on admission to the Society, and Ten Shillings as an Annual Subscription, which shall become due on the 1st of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the Laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve

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